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**GREAT INSURANCE FRAUDS IN PARIS.**—Our Paris correspondent gives an account of the remarkable conspiracy against insurance offices which is alleged to have been perpetrated there. Two well-known Socialists, one a pharmacien and the other a *soi-disant* doctor, are implicated in the fraud.

**THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.**—On Wednesday next at 8 P.M. at 17 Bloomsbury Square the sessional prizes given at the School of Pharmacy will be distributed by the President, after which the Inaugural Sessional Address will be delivered by Sir Dyce Duckworth, M.D., F.R.C.P., treasurer of the Royal College of Physicians. On the same evening the presentation of the Hanbury Gold Medal, which has been awarded to Brigade-Surgeon William Dymock, M.R.C.S., of Bombay, will take place.

**MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL.**—On Monday next the Lord Mayor will open a fine set of students' lodgings just erected in connection with this hospital. In the buildings there is a separate furnished room provided for each student, and on the ground-floor there is a general dining-hall, a common room, and a study. For residence and board (breakfast, luncheon, and dinner) the charge will be 30 guineas per term, exclusive of fire, lights, and washing; but those who prefer it can be received at a charge of 15 guineas per term for rooms and attendance. In the latter case they are expected to dine in the hall five nights in each week, and the charge (not including beer, &c.) will be 1s. 6d. per diem. In addition to all the advantages of a college life the great feature of this college is that students will have opportunities of seeing urgent cases at all times.

The twelfth annual meeting of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland is to be held at the Society's rooms at 11 Harcourt Street, Dublin, on Monday next, October 3, at 4 P.M. The

seven members of the Council who retire this year are J. E. Brunker, M.A., T. Collins, M.R.C.S.E., E. M. Hodgson, R. W. Pring, L.A.H., R. Simpson, A. Smith, M.D., and W. F. Wells, junr. These all offer themselves for re-election, except Dr. Aquilla Smith. Mr. George Lane M'Cormack, M.P.S.I., of Monkstown, is a candidate, and as only seven names are down these will all be elected without any contest. The President has given notice of a motion that in future the attendances of members of Council at committees be given on the election papers, and Mr. Downes will propose that the Council be requested to appoint a respectable solicitor.

**THE MEDICAL SESSION.**—At the following schools the usual introductory lecture on the opening of the medical session will be delivered on Monday, October 3:—At St. George's, by Mr. Clinton Dent; St. Mary's, Mr. Anderson Critchett; University College, Dr. H. Radcliffe Crocker; Westminster, Dr. Sturges. The address at St. Thomas's Hospital will be given on Saturday by Mr. R. W. Reid; and that at the London School of Medicine for Women by Mrs. Charliet, also on Saturday. At St. Bartholomew's, Charing Cross, Guy's, and the London Hospitals the practice of delivering an address has been discontinued. The winter session at King's College will be opened on Monday, when the distribution of prizes will take place, and an address will be given by the Right Hon. Lord Selborne.

**THE ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE** held their autumn meeting at Exeter on Tuesday and Wednesday, Sir Bernhard Samuelson, M.P., presiding. Among other transactions, the Association carried a resolution in support of technical and commercial schools, and one regretting that no legislation amending the Companies Acts had been carried this year. Other resolutions urging consolidation of partnership law, the registration of partnerships, regretting the abandonment of the Railway and Canal Traffic Bill, urging such amendments in the Employers' Liability Act as would enable the formation of compensation funds to which both masters and workmen should contribute, in favour of enlarging the jurisdiction of county courts, and in favour of the establishment of tribunals of commerce. The Post Office was memorialised to do more for the people with their 2½ millions surplus, and the following very sensible resolution in reference to barristers was carried:—

That it is expedient that counsel should be paid for their services according to usual commercial law, and be placed in a position to recover their fees by action at law, and be made liable to pay damages for negligence in all cases in which, if such counsel were a solicitor and were guilty of negligence, any client employing him would be entitled to recover damages.

**THE PARCEL POST.**—Parcels not exceeding 7 lbs. in weight will, on and from October 1, be received at any post office in the United Kingdom for transmission to Italy, including Assab and Massowah, *via* France. The rate of postage for a parcel not exceeding 7 lbs. is 2s. 1d. The parcel post will on October 1 be extended to France, Algeria, Corsica, and Tunis. The rate of postage will be 1s. 4d. for parcels not exceeding 3 lbs., and 1s. 9d. for parcels not exceeding 7 lbs. in weight.

**SAMPLE POST.**—A new tariff for sample post will come into operation on Saturday. *Bona-fide* patterns or samples may be sent by it for 1d. for 4 oz., 1½d. up to 6 oz., and 2d. up to 8 oz. No more than 8 oz. will be allowed, and articles sent must be samples. No article sent for sale or in execution of an order, however small the quantity, or sent from one private individual to another, will be admissible. Any parcel infringing this rule will be charged at double letter rate with 6d. fine. Packets must be open at both ends, though linen bags tied at the neck will be allowed for seeds, &c. The name, address, and trade of the sender must be printed on the wrapper above the address, and wrappers must be marked "Sample Post," or "Pattern Post." Number, price, and private business marks will be the only writing allowed; and glass bottles, glass in any form, explosives, liquids, semi-liquids, greasy substances, staining powders, and living creatures are absolutely prohibited.



## Metropolitan Reports.

**CRICKET.**—The Chemists' Aërated Waters Association C.O. played a match with the Idris & Co. C.C., at Gospel Oak, on Saturday, September 24. The Chemists' Aërateds first performed with the bat, and though six of their eleven accomplished 0, a total of 41 was recorded. Pirie (13) and Westlake (not out 10) alone scored double figures. The Idris Eleven reached 38, Morris contributing 12, and Kidby 10. They also lost six batsmen with a 0 each. The C.A. & M.W. at their second attempt reached 48—Pirie 10, Doo 10, and Butler (not out) 12, being the chief figurists. The Idris men, however, wiped out this score with the loss of only two wickets. Kidby made 11, and Miller and Morris, with 10 and 26, played up to victory.

**EXTENSIVE ROBBERIES FROM RIMMEL'S.**—At the Bow Street Police Court on the 22nd inst., Henry J. Collins, a soap finisher, was charged with stealing goods belonging to his employers, Messrs. Rimmel, perfumers. John Wood and William Henry Goss were charged with receiving property, well knowing it to have been stolen. Mr. A. Newton, who prosecuted, stated that in consequence of the loss of numerous articles the police were communicated with. A watch was kept on the premises, and on Wednesday Collins was followed to the shop of Mr. Vickers, newsagent, in the Strand, where the other prisoners were employed. He was seen to hand Goss two parcels. As many as 347 articles were found, valued at 40*l.*, which were identified as prosecutor's property. The prisoners were remanded.

**CHEAP MEDICINE-GLASSES.**—For some time the curbstone merchants of Cheapside have been vending graduated glass tumblers at a penny each. The tumblers are not badly made, and have the graduations moulded inside. They are 2½ inches deep, 2 inches in diameter at the top and 1 inch at the bottom. The figured graduations are one and two tablespoons, and one, two, four, six, and eight teaspoons. The glass has a German appearance, and the graduations are chiefly remarkable for their inaccuracy. A sample gave the following measurements:—

One teaspoon .. ..	equalled	35 minims
Two teaspoons .. ..	"	90 "
One tablespoon .. ..	"	3ij. 20 minims
Six teaspoons .. ..	"	3iv. 50 "
Two tablespoons .. ..	"	3vj. 40 "

**THE SOUTH LONDON SCHOOL OF PHARMACY.**—The new session of this institution was commenced on Sept. 19, a small company assembling on the occasion. The Vicar of the parish, the Rev. S. B. Harris, M.A., occupied the chair, and the Member of Parliament for the division, Mr. Gent-Davis, also took part in the proceedings. Mr. Baxter, the secretary, presented the prizes of last session to the students, whose names were given in this journal on July 30, and short addresses were given by Mr. John Smith, Mr. George Hill, Mr. C. R. White, Dr. Muter, and other gentlemen. Mr. Gent-Davis mentioned that in the last session he had opposed a certain measure because he thought it was calculated to exercise undue force over voluntary schools such as the one wherein they were met. Dr. Muter, in thanking their member for blocking the hurried legislation which had been brought into Parliament this session, said they were not opposed to scientific progress, but the Bill in question was a hurried one, and it was deemed advisable to oppose it, because it gave almost unlimited power to the Pharmaceutical Council.

## Provincial Reports.

*Items of news, and newspapers containing matters of interest to the trade, sent to the Editor, will much oblige.*

### BIRMINGHAM.

THE MIDLAND COUNTIES CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION are about to lose one of their members of the council. Since his brief sojourn in Broad Street, Mr. Hutton has taken a lively

interest in the doings of the association, and he will be missed at the forthcoming evening meetings. He (like the B.P.C.) is going to Bath.

A VERY small boy, feebly clad, marched into a dispensing establishment not many miles from Edgbaston a few days ago, and on catching the eye of the attendant showed to him a very much worn and highly abused camel-hair pencil and said, "Please to smell ut and gee us a pen'oth." The appearance and odour of the brush raised curious thoughts in the mind of the attendant, and afforded much amusement to others who were in earshot. The article supplied was iodoform.

**A JUBILEE DISPENSARY.**—The loyal inhabitants of Aston resolved to celebrate the Jubilee by the establishment of a provident dispensary, or some other charitable institution. At a meeting of the committee appointed to carry out the scheme it was reported that of the donations to the amount of 1,211*l.* which had been promised, only 425*l.* had actually been paid in, of which 402*l.* had been spent in entertaining the aged poor and children. Annual subscriptions to the amount of 36*l.* had been promised. The scheme has therefore fallen through, at least for the present. One gentleman stated that the reason why the money had not been paid was because people were dissatisfied with the manner in which the proceedings had been conducted.

**CHEMIST AND TRUSS.**—A customer went into a chemist's shop some time ago to order a truss, and as negotiations were going on in the matter, a stranger came in and heard the conversation concerning price, kind, and time required to get the instrument. He then left, as also did the second comer, and shortly after the man who required the truss returned and countermanded the order. On being questioned he said that he had just been informed by the man who had heard the conversation that he could get one much cheaper by going to the hospital, obtaining an order, and taking it to the firm who had the contract for supplying trusses to the hospital he named.

**THE TELEPHONE FOR DOCTORS AND CHEMISTS.**—Dr. Cunningham, medical officer of health at Oldbury, is determined that the latest "resource of civilisation" shall not be limited to the service of trade. A portion of his practice lies at Langley, a mile or two from his surgery, and with a large number of patients to see and waiting to consult him, the doctor has very often found his duties particularly exacting. He has accordingly resolved to erect a private telephone between his surgery and Langley. It will also be connected with Mr. Holmes's chemist's shop in Langley, and will be used for giving the doctor instructions for visits; also in some cases consultations may take place with the patient, and the doctor will be able to send a prescription *instantly* to the chemist's shop. The novel idea has caused some sensation in the district. It is in order to have the telephone as perfect as possible, and to prevent the chance of it being tapped or tampered with, that the doctor resolved to have it entirely private and for his own professional use. There are many cases where a doctor is called to visit that he might be able to deal with by asking a few simple questions, and the telephone is likely to save him and his patients some needless and unpleasant journeys in wintry weather.

### BLACKBURN.

**A DRUGGIST'S FORTUNE.**—Elizabeth Bowker, a poor widow, residing at Blackburn, has just been informed that she is the inheritor of thirty thousand pounds, in consequence of the death of one of her sons, who emigrated to the United States many years ago, and amassed the money in business as a chemist, druggist, and oilman in Philadelphia.

### BRIGHTON.

**DISPENSING CHARGES.**—At Brighton last week, Mr. Llewellyn, chemist, King's Road, Hove, sued Mr. Webster Biss, of 2 Park Crescent, for 8*l.* 2*s.*, for goods supplied. Mr. Pope appeared for the plaintiff, who stated that he had charged the usual prices of the trade. Defendant contended that the prices were unreasonably high. He said he could not tell whether he was overcharged for all the prescriptions, but he had tried other chemists and found he was very much overcharged by the plaintiff. He had, moreover, obtained a bottle of a



certain lotion at another chemist's, and was charged 3d., whereas the plaintiff had charged him 1s. 2d. Plaintiff had also charged him about double price for Pears's soap. The judge said he could not settle the prices of medicines without the aid of an expert. He asked defendant if he had not better pay the bill and go to a cheaper chemist in future. The defendant produced no evidence to show what prices should be charged, and a verdict was given for the plaintiff.

#### CAMBERLEY.

**MYSTERIOUS POISONING CASE.**—On September 22, a mother (aged forty-two) and son (aged seventeen) both died soon after supper. Both had taken some jam, and the son had taken two antibilious pills, and the mother had taken one. An inquest was opened on Saturday, September 24. The only witness called was Henry Bowles, husband and father of the deceased, who deposed that on Thursday evening, at half-past nine, his wife and son had supper, and were apparently in good health. Witness said he never ate supper himself, and he could not exactly say what the deceased had. He saw some greengage jam, and there might have been cheese as well. He was smoking, and drank some cold tea, and the two deceased might also have taken some. He saw a tin drawn out of the oven on Friday morning by the medical men. There was nothing except fat in it. He did not notice his wife taking anything out of the oven. About half an hour afterwards his son went to bed, having previously taken two pills. His wife only took one pill. His wife fell down in a faint, but he had seen her do the same before. She regained consciousness, but remained helpless, and complained of pains across the head. She was not sick. He kept bathing her temples until his son called for water. This was about half-past ten. He went upstairs and gave him some, and he said he was very ill, complained of pains between the shoulders and across the chest. He went for a doctor, and upon his return found that his son had been very sick, and was shouting loudly for water. Witness could not describe anything further as to what took place. His wife and son died shortly after the arrival of the doctor. By the Coroner: Did your wife make any remark? Witness: Soon after she was taken ill she thought my son was in the room, and said, "Ted, if anything happens to me don't let your poor father be blamed." Witness said he had some of the same jam about a fortnight since, and remarked that it was not greengage jam. He had never had any poison in his house. There were poisons in the house of Dr. Muller, in whose employ he was as head gardener, to which his wife would have access. As a rule they had mushrooms cooked, but he told his son always to show them to him before taking them indoors, as he could not discriminate between the good and the bad. He had been hoeing an asparagus bed, which he examined on Friday, and saw that some mushrooms or other fungi had been gathered. At this stage the Coroner said it would be necessary to adjourn the inquest to an indefinite date, and bound the jury over in 10*l.* each to appear, as an analysis was being made.—Drs. Twort and Manders, who had made the post-mortem examination, were present at the inquest, but were not called upon to give evidence.

#### GOOLE.

**EXPLOSION OF COLOURED FIRE.**—On Jubilee Day (June 21) in this town a serious explosion occurred on the water-tower of the Goole Gas and Water Company, causing the death of a boy and seriously injuring the boy's father (Mr. J. B. Whitaker) and a Mr. Lees. The adjourned inquest was held on Sept. 23 before Dr. Grabham. Mr. Lees stated that he was deputed by the Jubilee Committee to procure fireworks. He asked Mr. Blythe, chemist, Goole, to provide some coloured fire, and he supplied four bottles, each holding more than a pint, but not full. They were corked with an ordinary cork, about 1½ inch diameter. They also had some fireballs, a few rockets, squibs, and wheels. He described the steps that were taken to set off the fires. As to the coloured fires, some of the powder was placed on an iron plate, and the three bottles (of which he had drawn the corks) were put against the side of the tower, putting the corks in loosely, so that he could draw them easily. The coloured fire was lighted, and shortly afterwards the contents of the bottles exploded. Witness's opinion as to the cause

of the explosion was that one of the bottles had been left uncorked, and a spark had dropped into the bottle, in which there must have been something highly explosive. He did not know that the bottle had been put on the ground, but there was nowhere else to put it. He had just about done with the fireworks when the explosion occurred. He had the impression that coloured fire was harmless, and that which he burnt on his side did so in the ordinary way. John Overend Whitaker stated that each of the bottles held 4 lbs. of blue and red light composition. The first blue fire he made went off almost as quickly as he could lift his hand from it. It was loose on a sheet-iron plate, and went off quickly in a puff; the red fire was more slow in combustion. He remarked to Mr. Lees that he thought the blue light was not right. Mr. Lees took the bottle in his hand. Mr. Lees thought they had better try it over again. Witness was standing within three feet of Mr. Lees when the explosion occurred. He did not pick out any cork with his knife. (The Coroner remarked that any discrepancies in Mr. Lees' evidence would be fully accounted for by the shock he received.) No fire was put to the layer of stuff on the plate. They had no lamp or light, but used matches. He had no idea what caused the explosion. Mr. J. S. Linford, Fellow of the Chemical Society, and one of the Board of Examiners of the Pharmaceutical Society, said the laboratory of Messrs. Lofthouse & Saltmer, wholesale chemists, Hull, was under his charge. He said if a spark was dropped into a 4-lb. bottle the mixture would not explode, but would burn. The jury after some consultation returned a verdict of "Accidental death, caused by the explosion on the water-tower, but how the explosion was caused there is no evidence to show."

#### LIVERPOOL.

**THE CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATIONS.**—We have been asked to state, on behalf of the Liverpool Registered Chemists' Trade Association, that the report which we received and published last week regarding the relations of the Trade Association with the Chemists' Association is incomplete.

**CHARGE AGAINST A CHEMIST.**—At the police court on September 23, John Moore, 31 Warwick Street, and 2 Marsh Lane, Bootle, chemist and druggist, was in custody charged with criminally assaulting Alice Morgan, under fifteen years of age, and Alice Dicks, under thirteen years of age. The production of evidence was postponed and the prisoner was remanded for seven days.

**NEW HOMŒOPATHIC HOSPITAL.**—On September 22 the new Hahnemann Hospital in Hope Street was opened. This institution is the result of the munificence of Mr. Henry Tate, formerly of Liverpool, now of Streatham. Mr. Tate was formerly an active member of the committee of management of the Liverpool homœopathic dispensaries, and recognised the desirability of a hospital where resident patients could be treated, Mr. Tate at first gave 10,000*l.*, but finding this sum not sufficient for a hospital to contain fifty beds, he doubled his donation, and the newly-opened building is the result. The committee estimate that the annual income required to maintain both the hospital and the dispensaries will not be less than 2,500*l.*, and efforts are being made to endow the new institution to the amount of at least 20,000*l.* About 4,500*l.* have already been promised, and amongst the donations are two of 1,000*l.* each, this sum entitling the owner to endow a bed in perpetuity.

**HOMŒOPATHIC CONGRESS.**—On the occasion of opening the new hospital, the twenty-third annual congress of the homœopathic practitioners of Great Britain and Ireland met in the institution. The president, Arthur G. Clifton, M.D., of Northampton, delivered a lengthy and interesting address on "Therapeutic changes in general medicine during the Victorian era: their meaning and lessons for homœopaths." The head and front of the homœopathist's offending, he declared, was not that they were "sectarians"—it was that, having investigated homœopathy, and believing it to be the best method of therapeutics, they based their practice upon it, and openly said so in justice to their art and also to the public, but, unfortunately, to the annoyance of "professional sacerdotalism." Further, it was because they saw that these principles were either ignored or contemned by the members of the old school, that the only way to ensure them their



just place was to make them the bond of their union and the reason of their own separate existence. This was not sectarianism; it was fidelity to truth and principle. The chief discussion occurred on a paper read by Dr. Hayward, advocating more attention on the part of homeopaths to surgery. A banquet was held in the evening at the Adelphi Hotel.

#### MANCHESTER.

**POVERTY AND LAUDANUM.**—An inquest was held on the 21st inst. on the body of Emily Ann Firth, thirty, wife of a warehouse packer. The husband of deceased stated that he had been out of employment for two years; they were in poor circumstances, and had gone behind with their rent. This had affected deceased, and she had taken twopennyworth of laudanum, from the effects of which she died in the Salford Royal Infirmary.

#### MIDDLESBOROUGH.

**A SALVATIONIST ON LAUDANUM DRINKING.**—At a meeting recently held in this town for the rescue of fallen women, one of the speakers remarked that there was no small number of opium-takers in this town. There were chemists—he supposed they must be called respectable—who would let women run up a score for laudanum until they had money to pay for it. One of the girls in their home had raved about the place for laudanum, and had not been able to withstand the craving for the drink. They began to drink laudanum first to induce sleep, and soon they became perfect slaves to it. He had handed over to the chairman a bottle taken from a girl on the Middlesborough streets. That bottle would hold half of half a pint, and the girl to whom it belonged said it just lasted her two days.

#### MOUNTAIN ASH.

**SUICIDE OF A CHEMIST.**—Mr. Isaac Thomas, chemist, Oxford Street, Mountain Ash, died under sad circumstances last Saturday morning. Deceased, who was manager of a branch shop for Mr. T. Whitty Evans, Aberdare, opened the shop, and then returned to his bedroom, where, after bestowing several kisses on his baby, ten months old, he suddenly fell back and died. On the Friday he had written to his brother, residing at Cwmtwrch, telling him that was the last letter he would receive from him, and asking him to come to Mountain Ash. On the same day he also went to a barber and asked for a clean shave, saying it would be the last he should have. It has since been ascertained that Mr. Thomas took a quantity of prussic acid after opening the shop. The deceased had by his genial disposition won many friends, and, having resided in the town for a considerable number of years, he was very well known and respected. He leaves a widow and an infant child.

#### SHEFFIELD.

**SHEFFIELD PHARMACEUTICAL AND CHEMICAL SOCIETY.**—The third session of this Society's school will be commenced on Wednesday, October 12, in the Cutlers' Hall, Church Street. According to custom this is considered the first evening meeting of the session. The prizes and certificates will be presented to the successful students by Mr. Michael Carteighe (Pres. Pharm. Soc.), and Mr. Furness (President) will deliver an address. The annual dinner will be given in the same building, at the close of the meeting; Mr. Carteighe and other distinguished visitors are expected to be present. There will also be an exhibition of microscopes and appliances in the lobby.

The Society will have six meetings after the first. The following is the programme:—November 9.—“The Periodic Law applied to Chemistry.” By J. H. Worrall, F.C.S. December 14.—Students' night; essays, &c. January 11.—“The Future of Pharmacy.” By J. Humphrey. February 8.—“The Present Position of Toxicology.” By J. O. Arnold, F.C.S. March 14.—Students' night; essays, &c. April 11.—“Fermentation.” By F. Spurr. The “Students' nights” form a new feature in the programme, and are intended, by means of exhibitions of new drugs and appliances, together with short papers read by or for students, to impart instruc-

tion out of the usual class routine, whilst encouraging the Associates to take an active part in the Society's proceedings.

#### STOCKPORT.

**MESSRS. KAY BROTHERS.**—The wholesale and retail drug business carried on for many years by Messrs. Kay Brothers in this town has been sold to Mr. J. C. Arnfield, late of 241 Stamford Street, Ashton-under-Lyne. Messrs. Kay Brothers will, however, continue the manufacture of their well-known specialities at St. Peter's Gate, Stockport, as usual. Mr. Arnfield's business at Ashton-under-Lyne has been sold to Mr. Sharp, late of Stockport. The valuation was conducted in both cases for Mr. Arnfield by Mr. Brett, of Leicester, while Mr. Tomlinson, of Manchester, acted for Messrs. Kay Brothers, and for Mr. Sharp.

#### SUNDERLAND.

**LOVE POWDER.**—At the police court on September 23, a fortune-teller, named Scraffin, of Hartlepool, and Eliza Foxall, a young married woman, were committed for trial on a charge of conspiracy to murder the husband of the last-named prisoner, a barber of Sunderland. Great interest was taken in the case, nearly 3,000 people having congregated in the vicinity of the court with the evident intention of mobbing the prisoner Foxall, who was with difficulty rescued from the crowd when let out on bail on the last occasion. Mrs. Foxall is the daughter of a captain who has been for about twenty years in the employment of a large firm at Hartlepool. Husband and wife had been separated, and the latter having recently returned to live with her husband, the allegation was that the elder prisoner supplied poison to Mrs. Foxall for the purpose of killing her husband, who became ill. Documentary and medical evidence bore out the theory of the prosecution. The defence was that what was administered was not poison, but simply a love charm prepared for the purpose of regaining her husband's love.

#### SWANSEA.

**ADULTERATED LARD.**—The stipendiary magistrate last week dismissed a case against a grocer who was charged with selling lard adulterated to the extent of 3·5 per cent. with water, it being alleged that pure lard contained no water. The magistrate said that the evidence was quite insufficient for the bench to suppose that any fraudulent tampering with the lard had been committed by the defendant. Moreover he had a written warranty that the lard was genuine and pure; therefore the responsibility fell upon the party from whom the defendant had purchased it.

#### SCOTLAND.

##### ABERDEEN.

**STILL THEY COME.**—Dr. G. J. Fraser has opened a shop in Halburn Street, and current report says another doctor and two chemists are *individually* prospecting. Surely our 120,000 inhabitants will then be amply provided for!

**EPIDEMICS.**—Now that we have got fairly satisfactorily over our forty cases of small-pox, we have to contend with our old enemy scarlet fever (principally imported from our summer resorts) and a few cases of diphtheria and diphtheritic sore throat; and our well-known friends, chlorine mixtures and gargles, are again in demand.

**AN ENTERPRISING FIRM.**—One of our local wholesale houses (Messrs. W. Paterson & Sons) has issued a reprint of the B.P.C. Formulary, and are distributing it amongst their clients. In a preface they say:—“We have had the present issue reprinted in a form which we think will be useful to our customers, and suitable also for them bringing it under the notice of their medical friends. Should any of our friends wish an extra copy for this purpose we shall be glad to forward it to them.”

##### ARBROATH.

**MR. JAMES JACK,** pharmaceutical chemist, who has been for some time chief of the compounding department in the establishment of Mr. T. R. Lester, Cork, joins the old-established firm of Shield & Mill, Arbroath.



## DUNDEE.

**THE CULTIVATION OF LINSEED.**—About a year ago several of the largest firms of flax-spinners in this town induced a number of farmers in Forfarshire to undertake the cultivation of linseed, with a view to supplying the spinners with home-grown fibre. The result is not without pharmaceutical interest, for it appears that the soil in the locality is admirably adapted for the growing of linseed rich in oil. A recent analysis by Mr. G. D. MacDougall, public analyst for Dundee, of a sample grown in that neighbourhood showed the large amount of 58.35 per cent. of oil, which is very considerably in excess of that commonly present. This linseed would be particularly suited for the manufacture of crushed linseed for those who consider this article to be in its highest perfection when it contains the maximum amount of oil.

## EDINBURGH.

**COMPETITION** has become so keen in this city that an eminent local chemist has felt it necessary to exert himself. Amongst the products of his exertion is a price-list, and in this we find the item, "Double distilled lime water at 4*d.* per quart." Surely no greater tribute to science and the spirit of the times than that could have been formulated!

## WISHAW.

**A BULLOCK IN A DRUGGIST'S SHOP.**—On September 26, Mr. Hamilton, flesher, Wishaw, was driving a bullock from the auction market, and when opposite the shop of Mr. Chislet, druggist, it bolted to the right, and entering the shop, got behind a counter. A rope was lashed round its horns, and some sturdy fellows pulled it out of the shop. Considerable damage was done to the articles in the shop.

## FRENCH PHARMACEUTICAL NEWS.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

**THE PARIS "ECOLE PRATIQUE" AND "CLINIQUE D'ACCOUCHEMENT,"** attached to the Faculty of Medicine, is to be reconstructed; a sum of 150,000*f.* having been appropriated therefor by the Paris Municipal Council.

**THE QUINA-LAROCHE ROBBERED.**—The pharmacy, Rue Drouot, where the above speciality is sold, was entered on September 23 by unknown thieves, who, after breaking through doors and partitions, robbed the cash-till of about 1,300*f.*, and left there just one penny-piece.

**A CHOLESTERIN CALCULUS.**—Dr. Pupier, at the September meeting of the Lyons Medical Society, presented an enormous biliary calculus weighing 58 grammes (about 2 oz.) and voided per rectum by a physician who had never experienced distinctive hepatic colics. The stone consisted of almost pure cholesterin, and was expelled after a most painful labour lasting nearly twenty-four hours, and much resembling a regular accouchement.

**UNCANNY RELICS.**—The Faculty of Medicine have escaped much public obloquy. Pranzini, a vulgar criminal who murdered three women for the sake of robbery, was duly executed a week or two ago, his body being sent for dissection to the laboratory of the Faculty. Ugly rumours soon gained currency that an *agréé* professor had caused Pranzini's skin to be tanned and made into card cases. But an investigation has shown that some of the skin had been surreptitiously taken by a laboratory porter and given to a member of the police force, who had really had the card-cases made and presented to two of his superiors. So it turns out that the Faculty were only guilty of negligence, but that the police were culpable of gross impropriety. The three implicated officials, Messrs. Taylor, Goron, and Rossignol, find themselves in an awkward predicament, expecting to be dismissed. Some wits say that, living, Pranzini killed three women, and is going to cost three men their heads after losing his own.

**SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL STUDENTS.**—A ministerial order has been issued, directing that a competition be held on October 25, at the Faculties of Medicine and mixed Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy, for

scholarships to be granted to candidates for the degree of doctor of medicine. On the same day a competition is to be held in superior schools of pharmacy and mixed Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy for pharmacy scholarships. The names of candidates must be entered on or before October 15, when the books shall be closed. The following are the conditions of the competition:—Candidates for the diploma of pharmacists of the first class must hold either four, eight, or twelve inscriptions, corresponding to one, two, or three years' attendance at the lectures. For first-year students, the written examination will be on physics, mineral chemistry, organography, and vegetable anatomy; the oral examination on Galenic pharmacy. Second-year students will have for the written ordeal, organic chemistry, the phanerogamous plants, and materia medica; for the oral, pharmaceutical chemistry. Third-year, chemical analysis, toxicology, and hydrology; for the written and for the oral, zoology and cryptogamy. Candidates for the superior diploma—that is, those aiming at the professorate—must, in order to compete for a scholarship, hold the diploma of pharmacist of the first class. They will also be subject to both a written and an oral examination, rather a lengthy programme being published, which varies for those who select the natural and those who prefer the physical sciences. Finally, candidates having obtained the diploma of bachelor of either letters or sciences with the mention "Bien," shall be entitled, without competition, to a scholarship for the first year.

**A STRANGE EPILOGUE TO MME. HUOT'S LECTURE.**—Some time since, one Von Scheurer, a Bavarian by birth, naturalised American, had his life insured for 300,000*f.* in three British companies—the Life Association of Scotland, the Imperial Society, and the Sun—the amount to be paid to Von Bakfalua, his mistress. Finding the premiums heavy, he thought the insurance money would be preferable, and devised an ingenious plan to secure it without the silly formality of dying. To this end he procured the assistance of "Dr." Castelnau, under promise of a share in the plunder. The "Doctor" is a character. Although not a graduate of the Faculty, but only at one time an *interne* at the St. Lazare Hospital, he was some thirty-five years ago the editor of a medical paper notorious for its virulence. He was also known as a model socialist and popular agitator. Of late years he was a contributor, under the name of Dr. Lux, to Rochefort's paper, the *Intransigeant*, always bitterly attacking Pasteur. At Mme. Huot's anti-vivisectionist lecture, reported in THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST at the time, he sat next to her on the platform, and was conspicuous because he has no nose to speak of, and persisted in addressing the audience as "citoyens et citoyennes" in a snuffling voice. He had not been prosperous—he is now seventy-two—and it is said the hope of getting money enough to buy a pharmacy for his son led him to join Von Scheurer in the conspiracy. First they approached one L., a consumptive, who, expecting to die, consented to personate the Bavarian for the sake of ease and comfort during his last days. So he was placed, under the name of Von Scheurer, in a "Maison de Santé" at Bellevue. But there he was so well cared for that he recovered. The conspirators then looked for a better subject. One was supplied by a pharmacist of the Rue Geoffroy-St. Hilaire, named Martinet, also a shining light of the Socialist party, but who is thought to have acted innocently, under the belief that some new cure for consumption was under trial. The second patient, a Swiss called Glockner, in the last stages of phthisis, was then, under the name of Von Scheurer, installed in Dr. Castelnau's house at Meudon, where he soon died, and was buried in November, 1883. The legal mortuary papers having been duly obtained, the British companies paid the insurance money to Mlle. Von Bakfalua, and the German-American, after giving the Doctor 25,000*f.*, it is said, decamped with her to New York, where they may now possibly be riding in Fifth Avenue or the Riverside Park. But it is different with Dr. Castelnau. On some information he was arrested a few days ago, and is now in gaol at Versailles, under the charge of conspiracy and murder. The body of Glockner is to be exhumed for judicial investigation. M. Martinet has also been taken to the Versailles gaol, and so have Dr. Castelnau's son, son-in-law, and a servant girl. Many wild stories are circulating, hatched by inventive Parisian reporters, but the foregoing details are in the main supported by reliable evidence.



## THE ADELAIDE JUBILEE EXHIBITION.

THIS Exhibition, opened on Jubilee day with great rejoicings, has proved to be the most successful in the point of attendance ever held in these colonies. The attendance for the first twenty-nine days was 142,174, while the first twenty-seven days at Sydney saw only 119,712 visitors, and at Melbourne only 114,424. A very large proportion of the visits at Adelaide, no less than 71,185, have been those of season-ticket holders, but it may be argued, we think, that these visits are more likely to result in business than the flying visits of casual guests.

The number of exhibits of purely pharmaceutical interest is very small; they may almost be counted on the fingers. But in the subsidiary departments in which pharmacists are interested there is a goodly number, and we propose to deal with them all in their turn. For convenience of treatment we shall treat all articles of the same class in the same letter; but this will not always be possible as some exhibits are even yet unplaced.

The awards are to be—

1st class. Diploma of first order of merit and medal.

2nd class. Diploma of second order of merit.

3rd class. Diploma of third order of merit.

Professor Rennie, Government Analyst, has been appointed Superintendent of Juries and Awards. Regulations for the organisation of juries have been approved. Jury 3 deals with chemical manufactures, medicines, dietetic preparations, oils, scents, medicinal plants, glycerine, animal oils, animal perfumes, beeswax, shellac, cochineal, and other insect secretions, &c. Jury 11, with pharmaceutical apparatus, instruments for physical diagnosis, clinical thermometers, stethoscopes, ophthalmoscopes, surgical instruments, &c. Four jurors are to be appointed for each of these sections. The position of the jurors will be purely honorary.

In this letter we shall consider the Pharmaceutical preparations properly so called, and chemicals and chemical products. Essential oils, drugs, and the whole legion of sundries will be dealt with in subsequent communications.

## PHARMACEUTICAL PREPARATIONS.

Joseph Bosisto & Co., Richmond, Melbourne, show a series of pharmaceutical products of the Eucalyptus genus, in addition to their fine series of Eucalyptus oils. "Eucalyptol" from the essential oils of *Eucalyptus amygdalina* and *Globulus*, is, perhaps, the most interesting. The catalogue of the Victorian Court (an excellent publication) informs us that its formula is  $C_{12}H_{20}O$ , vapour density, 6.22; it is a homologue of camphor, but two steps higher in the series, and is used for bronchial and diphtheritic affections. It will be seen that this does not correspond with the formula given as that of true eucalyptol in the letter of Schimmel & Co., in your issue of June 18. To us in Australia, before the matter is further investigated, it seems that while Schimmel & Co. and the authorities they quote may be perfectly correct as to the chemical facts, they are assuming a very great deal in alleging that all the therapeutic virtues of eucalyptus oil are due to this newly isolated compound, they seem to prove a great deal too much. But this is a digression. Eucalyptene is also shown here as a solid amorphous, hygroscopic bitter principle, which can be used in low fevers in doses of one to three grains. Here again will be noticed a clashing of nomenclature, the name eucalyptene being applied by several authorities to a terpene boiling between  $172^{\circ}$  and  $175^{\circ}$  Fahr. *Liquor Eucalypti globuli* is shown, as well as the juice of the leaves of this species and of *E. rostrata*. The latter is said to be a delicate mucilaginous astringent, safer and more effective than either kino or catechu. A green ointment from eucalyptus leaves is also shown.

F. H. Faulding & Co., Adelaide, one of the two wholesale druggists in South Australia, have a large, handsome case, containing specimens of many of their products, including concentrated infusions, liquid extracts, besides various drugs, &c., which (as well as their new South Australian essential oil of eucalyptus) will be referred to later on.

Lyman, Sons & Co., Paul Street, Montreal, Canada, are the only firm neither British nor Australian that exhibits any pharmaceutical preparations. They are represented at the Exhibition by Mr. W. O. Franklin. We shall deal with much of the display when we come to treat of the perfumery. We

have here, however, numerous fluid extracts, as of hydrangea, bael fruit, cramp bark, and others; also, "abstracts" of aconite, &c., witch hazel essence, and beef and iron wine. We may mention here the specimens of Canada balsam and Canadian pearlsh, both of which are handled largely by the firm, while our supplies are drawn from their colony.

J. K. Blogg & Co. (Limited), Melbourne, show a variety of pharmacopoeial tinctures. This firm does a large business in what may be called grocers' sundries.

Burroughs, Wellcome & Co., London (Australian agent, Wm. Shepperson, Little Collins Street, Melbourne) have a large display. The case of this firm is of handsome carved dark wood, with panels at the base of the corner pillars bearing the names of their leading specialties. The inscriptions on the glass are in Sanscrit, Chinese and Arabic, but might as well be in the language of the stars for the benefit of most colonial visitors. A specimen of the household medicine-chest appears here, as well as large specimens of hazeline, terebene, Kepler malt extract, solution of cod-liver oil in malt, tabloids, pepsine, the menthol plaster of the National Plaster Co., of Lowell, Mass., U.S.A., tincture of strophanthus, and other preparations, which have often been described in your columns.

Your readers may not be aware of the methods adopted by the enterprising Australian agent Mr. William Shepperson. He has been visiting all the large centres of population, and has called together very well attended meetings of the medical practitioners, and has given demonstrations of the digestive properties of the firm's preparations. At Melbourne he induced the Medical Society of Victoria to summon a meeting at which one of the University demonstrators read a paper on the subject.

J. Richardson & Co., Leices'er, have appointed as Australian agents Harrison & Whiffen, 472 George Street, Sydney. They have a varied but not large exhibit of syrups, medicinal soaps, coated pills, and "galenicals." Among the latter are acetum ipecacuanhe, liq. santal. flav. co., cascara cordial, sol. bismuthi cum pepsina, syrupus hypophosph. co. The coated pills are shown in bulk, as well as in pocket cases, the latter being a very useful form for these colonies. The medicinal soaps include thymol, carbolic, thymolodyne, sulphur, and coal tar. Besides these the firm make some articles, half proprietary, half pharmaceutical, such as styptic colloid, hypno-poietic, and others, all well known in these colonies.

The case containing these articles is shared also by the two well-known Battersea firms, May & Baker and Thos. Whiffen. Harrison & Whiffen, Sydney, represent these two firms and also the Royal Chemical Co., New York, which, however, has no exhibit here. The exhibits of the two firms just mentioned are the most important so far as your readers are concerned in the class of

## CHEMICALS.

May & Baker, Battersea, show a goodly number of their well-known "fine" chemicals. There is a full line of mercurials, gallic, benzoic, and other acids, acetate of lead, phosphate of iron, &c. I have previously mentioned that the introduction of the ounce squares of camphor has opened up a new industry for small boys, who hawk them about from office to office in the city and from house to house in the suburbs, doing a roaring trade at 3d. a piece. More camphor must have been sold in this way than ever before.

Thos. Whiffen, of Battersea, shows sulphate of quinine in ounce bottles, and there are stoppered bottles of smelling salts, and pepsine which might be either Whiffen's or Richardson's, though this does not matter, as the one firm here is agent for both. We noticed also the well-known Hulle's strychnine; this must be one of the heaviest lines sold in this rabbit and dingo infested land. Certainly the quantity of strychnine sold in the country districts of Australasia would open wide the eyes of an English druggist.

Gaskell, Deacon & Co., Wides (agent in Australasia, J. Billing, Sydney and Melbourne) have a good show, the most prominent article being an exceptionally pure form of carbonate of soda, named "crystal-carbonate." It is a finely crystalline powder, already well known, we believe, on your side. If the claims of high melting-point, comparatively small bulk, low percentage of water of crystallisation, and purity are found to be maintained on trial, this article will probably push the older soda crystals out of the market. A great deal will depend, however, on the way it is placed before the public, for, in



spite of the push and energy with which we are rightly credited, this is in some respects one of the most conservative markets in the world. Still, with an agent on the spot able to study the requirements of buyers, the difficulties in the way of introducing a new article ought soon to be got over. Gaskell, Deacon, & Co. show also their high-test bicarbonate of soda, containing 99 per cent. of bicarbonate, made by their patented process. Cream caustic soda, white caustic, fused chloride of calcium, bleaching-powder, and other products of the Leblanc process, are also shown at this case.

The Greenbank Alkali Works Co. (Limited), St. Helen's, Lancashire, is already well known in these colonies for its powdered alkalis for domestic soap manufacture. The most prominent exhibit at this stand is "Greenbank Chloride of Lime of extra strength," which is put up in air-tight metallic cans. This ought to prove a saleable line. The need for disinfectants in these colonies is very great. Not that the atmosphere is foul, like the ordure-scented towns of China, or the streets and houses dirty. Quite the reverse. But typhoid plays terrible havoc. I do not know that the average mortality from this disease is greater here than in England, but in the latter country it is a rare thing to hear of a case in the middle or upper classes, the disease being largely confined to crowded back slums; but here it is as common in the middle classes as anywhere else, and causes incalculable loss to the community. Chloride of lime has also been recommended as a remedy for the Californian thistle plague. The chemist for the Victorian Agricultural Department has found that it destroys the plants if strewn in fairly large quantities over them. This Californian thistle is nothing more or less than the *Carduus arvensis*, the common English field thistle. It grows in some places so densely that all other herbage is destroyed; it spreads very rapidly, and produces such a number of rhizomes that no ordinary process will eradicate it. But to return to my subject.

The Adelaide Chemical Works, Adelaide, show specimens of sulphuric, sulphurous, nitric, and hydrochloric acids, manufactured in the colony, also sulphates of zinc, iron, copper, and sodium, as well as nitrate of soda, sulphophosphates, bone meal, and bone ash.

Wagenmann, Seybel & Co., Vienna, have a modest display in a corner of the Austrian Court of tartaric acid, in powder, crystals, and granules. This is nothing novel, but it is interesting, as this firm claims to supply a large proportion of the tartaric acid consumed in the world.

Sulphate of ammonia is exhibited by the South Australian Gas Company, Adelaide. The company distilled 20,000 tons of coal during the last twelvemonths. With the exception of tar, sulphate of ammonia is the only by-product for which a sale has been made, and although countless acres of land in South Australia are thoroughly exhausted the gas companies in Adelaide and Victoria alike have had to send the sulphate to Mauritius to fertilise the exhausted sugar plantations.

Blacklock & Macarthur, Clydesdale Works, Glasgow, agents, Geo. Wills & Co., Adelaide, and R. Morison Stewart, Sydney, show with a variety of semi-chemical products certain which may be called heavy chemicals, such as borax, sulphur, verdigris, sugar of lead, sal ammoniac, bicarbonate of potash, roll sulphur, sulphate of copper.

F. H. Faulding & Co., Adelaide, have in their case some of the finest specimens of crystals and rare chemicals in the exhibition.

Alex. Ferguson & Co., of Glasgow, show, through their representatives, Harrold Bros., Adelaide, a very large and varied display of lead products. The most interesting object is the model of a "white lead stack three months after erection." This shows the old Dutch process of making white lead. In this process a bed of tan is first prepared, on this are arranged a large number of earthenware pans, a little vinegar is placed in the bottom of each, in which a coil of sheet lead is stood on edge, planks are placed over the pans, and another set of pans arranged on them. This is repeated until the building is filled, and it is then closed for some months. The chemical re-action is believed to be as follows: The slight heat developed by the tan bed helps to evaporate the vinegar, the fumes contain acetic acid, which attacks the outer surface of the lead, converting it into oxy-acetate, this in turn is attacked by the carbonic acid from the decomposing tan, and the acetic acid being liberated proceeds to combine with the next layer of lead molecules,

this process going on until nearly the whole thickness of the sheet is changed from metallic lead to carbonate. The full-sized stack contains 80 tons of lead, and this firm claims that it is able to supply a thousand tons of white lead per week. The case, which is a very large one, contains an interesting series of all the products of lead, lead sheet, lead pipe, lead pigments of various kinds, lead ingots containing silver, the same desilverised, and cakes of silver obtained from it, the surface of which shows in a very interesting manner the irregularity caused by the escape of the oxygen from the molten metal as it cools.

There are two exhibits of pure white and coloured gelatine in thin sheets, such as is used by photographers and others, shown by the Gelatine Fabrick, Winterthur, Germany, agents, Schultze, Steffens & Co., of 37 Little Collins Street East, Melbourne, and Wilhelm Bang, Hanau, a/M, whose case is closed so that the goods are not accessible. Their appearance leaves nothing to be desired.

The Adelaide Crystal Ice Company show, with other things, Winchester quarts of liquor ammoniæ fort., sp. gr. '880, made by themselves for use in their refrigerating machines. This apparently cannot be made at a price to compete with the ordinary article in the open market. The manager, Mr. Wm. Weber, states that he made liq. ammoniæ in Sandhurst in 1876-77, being the first to do so in the colonies.

#### AMERICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION

THE thirty-fifth annual meeting of this Association commenced on Monday, September 5, at Cincinnati, Ohio, and was continued for the greater part of the week, both science and pleasure being equally heartily entered into. Mr. Charles A. Tufts, of Dover, N.H., was the president of the year, and the meeting was a successful one. Amongst the business which received the attention of the members was a proposal for the

#### RE-CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The feeling has been growing for many years that the altered circumstances of American pharmacy would seriously affect the progress of the Association, and last year a committee, with Professor Remington as chairman, was appointed to consider the whole matter and report. This committee now reports that it would be not only wise and expedient for the association to adapt its constitution and by-laws to the new order of things pharmaceutical, but absolutely necessary if it is to maintain its supremacy and its reputation for representing all pharmaceutical interests. Accordingly it recommends that the objects of the Association should be so comprehensive as to include every important pharmaceutical interest, especially commercial interests, pharmaceutical education, and the labours of the State Boards of Pharmacy. It anticipates a considerable increase in the membership, consequently a better attendance and greater interest in the annual meetings, all which necessitates a change in the constitution and in the mode of conducting business. It is specially recommended that the business should be divided into the following sections:—

(1) General business to be considered at the first, second, and last sessions.

(2) Commercial matters at the third and fourth sessions.

(3) Scientific papers at the fifth, sixth, and seventh sessions.

(4) Legislation and pharmaceutical education at the eighth session.

Each section will elect its own chairman and secretary, and each will have a committee of its own. It is further resolved that any member of the Association may attend the meetings of the Council, and may speak thereat if invited to do so. These recommendations are expected to greatly increase the popularity of the Association.

#### THE NATIONAL FORMULARY.

The committee which had charge of this were not ready with their revised draft, but submitted a report which showed what work had been done in the course of the year, and to this they appended "selected formulæ as specimens." These consisted of *Emulsio olei morrhue* (four formulæ, with Irish



moss, acacia, glycerine, and quillaia); *Elisir ferri phosphatis, quinine et strychnine*; *Syrupus phosphatum compositus*; *Pepsinum* (two methods of assay are given); *Pepsinum saccharatum*; *Caffeine sodio-benzoas*, of which the following is the formula:—

Caffeine .. .. .	50 parts
Benzoate of sodium .. .. .	50 „
Alcohol .. .. .	a sufficient quantity

Triturate the caffeine with the benzoate of sodium, and a sufficient quantity of alcohol to make a smooth paste, and dry this by exposure in a moderately warm place.

The product contains 50 per cent. of caffeine, and is soluble in less than its own weight of water.

*Infusum gentiane compositus fortius*, a representative of concentrated infusions, which we are glad that the committee have had the boldness to introduce. The method which they employ differs somewhat from those which are generally recognised in so far as the drugs are exhausted with diluted alcohol. The formula is:—

Gentian .. .. .	2 troy oz.
Coriander .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
Bitter orange peel .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ „
Diluted alcohol, enough to make .. .. .	16 fluid oz.

Reduce the drugs to a moderately fine (No. 50) powder, moisten it with diluted alcohol, pack it in a percolator, and percolate with diluted alcohol until sixteen (16) fluid oz. are obtained.

Note.—When *Infusum gentiane compositus* is prescribed, mix 1 volume of this preparation with 3 volumes of water.

The other specimens are *Tinctura ferri citro-chloridi*; *Syrupus acidi hydriodici decolor* (in which the objectionable method of making the acid by double decomposition between potassium iodide and tartaric acid is adopted; hypophosphorous acid is the preserving agent); *Liquor cupri alkalini* (Fehling's solution); and *Emplastrum picis liquidæ compositum*.

#### SCIENTIFIC PAPERS.

Of these there was a fair supply, and several papers were of considerable interest. Mr. E. Painter contributed one on

#### IRISH-MOSS GELATINE.

This is intended for the ready preparation of emulsions and opaque mixtures, and is itself made as follows:—

Take of good bleached Irish moss a convenient quantity, wash it well with cold water and place it in a boiling-water bath, with about fifty times as much hot water, stir frequently and continue the heat for about fifteen minutes, then transfer the mixture to a strong muslin strainer of open texture, and with moderate pressure strain off the mucilaginous liquid. To obtain a larger yield the undissolved portion may be returned to the water-bath and treated a second time with about one-third the quantity of water and strained as above. The strained liquid is then evaporated in the water-bath to a syrupy consistence, spread with a brush upon plates of glass, and dried in a moderately warm place to form scales.

The use of the gelatine is exemplified in the following formula:—

#### Emulsion of Cod-liver Oil.

Irish-moss gelatine .. .. .	40 grains
Boiling water .. .. .	5 fl. oz.
Cod-liver oil .. .. .	3 „
Syrup tolu .. .. .	2 „
Alcohol .. .. .	1 „
Oil sassafras .. .. .	10 minims
„ wintergreen .. .. .	10 „
„ bitter almond .. .. .	2 „

Disolve the gelatine in the boiling water, taking pains to have it completely in solution, transfer the mucilage formed to a pint bottle, gradually add the oil in divided portions, and shake the bottle vigorously after each addition and until a perfect emulsion is formed, then incorporate the syrup, and lastly add the alcohol in which the essential oils have previously been dissolved, and shake well together.

In a paper communicated by Mr. W. Simonson (Cincinnati) the percentage of ethyl nitrite in

#### CONCENTRATED NITROUS ETHER

was shown to vary from 23 to 61.1 per cent. in twenty-five fresh specimens, and fifteen which were under a year old contained from 18.55 to 37.9 per cent., with quantities of acid ranging from 1.8 to 6.4 per cent. The U.S.P. directs the distillate of nitrous ether to be washed with water before it is diluted with 19 volumes of alcohol. It is assumed that

the washed distillate contains at least 80 per cent. of ethyl nitrite; but it has been shown by Parsons that it contains ethyl acetate as well as nitrite. The proportions theoretically are 63 per cent. ethyl nitrite, and 37 per cent. ethyl acetate, and he stated that “careful quantitative experiments give results quite closely in accord with this supposition.” Mr. Simonson's results (which were obtained by Allen's method) are another proof of the great liability to decomposition which nitrous ether in any form possesses.

In two papers of great length Mr. Edward Kremers treated of the

#### OILS OF PENNYROYAL AND CITRONELLA.

The pennyroyal to which he referred is the *Hedeoma pulegioides*, Pers., a plant which differs from *Mentha pulegium*, Linn. *Hedeoma pulegioides* is a low, odorless annual indigenous to North America from Canada through the United States. It grows in barren and sandy fields, on hills and along the open border of woods. A description of the plant will be found in Gray's “Manual,” Wood's “Botany,” the “National Dispensary,” Luerssen's “Medicinisch-Pharmaceutische Botanik,” and other standard works. The virtues of the plant depend upon the volatile oil it contains. Apart from its slight medicinal use, and its external application as a protection from the bites of mosquitoes, the oil has mainly served as an adulterant of peppermint oil. After describing the way in which the oil is manufactured the author detailed at considerable length the results of a chemical examination of it. The specimens examined had a specific gravity of 0.932, were neutral in reaction and soluble in alcohol. The absence of phenol and aldehyde bodies was proved. The first constituent isolated was a low-boiling “alcohol” which distilled at 74–77° C., and of which the composition remains to be determined with exactitude—one combustion giving figures agreeing apparently with the formula  $C_8H_{10}O$ , and another giving  $C_8H_{12}O$ . The two fractions distilling between 168°–171° and 206°–209° were found to be identical chemically, the formula  $C_{10}H_{18}O$  being obtained for both. For this substance the author suggests the name *Hedeomol*. The higher-boiling fraction was a thin, colourless liquid, assuming a yellow colour upon standing, having a mint-like, somewhat camphoraceous odour, reminding slightly of pennyroyal. The other was camphoraceous and lavender-like, and, it is probable, was purer. Formic and acetic acids were also discovered, as well as an oily acid, which was ascertained to be isoheptic acid. These probably exist in the oil combined with borneol.

In the paper on citronella oil a review of the different species of andropogon was given, and an account of the derivation of the name, synonyms, history, use, and commerce of the oil obtained from *Andropogon nardus*, L. As to the production of the oil, according to Consul Freudenberg, the German consul in Colombo, it is produced almost exclusively in the southern provinces of Ceylon, partly by the rich natives, holding the larger plantations, and partly by the poorer ones, who plant their small plots of land with citronella grass. The former carry on the distillation in regular apparatus by means of steam; the poorer ones boil their grass in small kettles, and construct with earthen vessels a primitive distillatory apparatus. Only one farm is in the hands of Europeans. The oil is distilled throughout nearly the whole year, though December, January, March, April, July, August are the most favourable periods. At present prices the poorer natives can only hold their own by performing all the labour themselves, but the richer ones manufacture on more rational principles, and therefore more cheaply. A well-managed plantation will yield 24 flasks per acre three times a year (together about 45 kilos.), an inferior one only 18 flasks a year. So-called citronella oils, the product of *A. Schenanthus* have been examined by Gladstone, C. R. A. Wright, and others. Mr. Kremers's results with the *A. nardus* oil show that it consists of an aldehyde ( $C_9H_{16}O$ ), a pale yellow, viscid liquid of an agreeable geranium-like odour and pungent taste; sp. gr. 0.942; a terpene,  $C_{10}H_{18}$ ; a body isomeric with borneol,  $C_{10}H_{18}O$ . This was a colourless liquid, of a fragrant, lemon-like odour, miscible with alcohol in all proportions. It distilled at 217–222°. For this the name citronellol is proposed, and the author remarks that the term geraniol should be in all cases applied to the  $C_{10}H_{18}O$  of the oil of *Andropogon Schenanthus*, and that the term citronellol be retained for the  $C_{10}H_{18}O$  of the oil of *Andropogon nardus*. The acids found were acetic and



valerianic. Both of them are probably formed by the oxidation of the aldehyde, and exist in combination with the citronellol as compound ethers. The stills which are used in North Carolina for distilling oil of pennyroyal and other essential oils were described by Mr. Charles Gallagher (Washington, N.C.), who also gave a description of the apparatus used for making alcohol for hospital use, and the Confederate apparatus for manufacturing saltpetre during the civil war between the States.

#### THE MEDICINES OF MEDICINE.

In his paper bearing this title, Mr. E. Painter gave vent to his opinion on specialising. Mr. Painter finds that there are in the United States not less than 160 different so-called "manufacturers of pharmaceutical preparations," who in reality, for the most part, are but mere manipulators and mixers of drugs. At least 25 per cent. of this number have offices in New York, and a still larger percentage send out their travellers to medical men to distribute samples, to extol their wares, and to urge upon the physician to designate their particular "make" in prescribing. These forty odd manufacturers include in their lists of preparations not less than the total sum of 36,500 mixtures, each of which is designated by some particular name, and so prescribed. Mr. Painter held that it is ridiculous to suppose that any chemist can keep a representative number of the specialities in stock. He selected examples of them and showed that there was nothing in them requiring special treatment, and stated that many of them are not true to the formulæ given for them. Moreover, he alleged that there is nothing original in any of the formulæ. The manufacturers had simply gathered together a lot of old prescriptions of different physicians, and these, with the mixing together of sundry principles, which their peers have eliminated, constitute their whole stock in trade. . . . The load is becoming more and more burdensome, and he felt that chemists had submitted to the imposition long enough, and that they should rise up and drive the enemy from their strongholds, which could readily be done by concerted action. Theirs is a garrison whose commissary stores are in the hands of their natural enemy. Cut off their supplies and they will very quickly "seek other fields and pastures new." That is Mr. Painter's remedy; it has been tried before in the States, and has failed.

#### WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

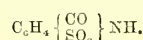
Mr. Alfred B. Taylor read a long paper on the relative merits of the British and metric systems of weights and measures, and submitted details of a new one which is called the *Octonary system*. In this the British inch is taken as the unit, or properly a 16-inch rule is taken as the standard of length, and is called a "module," it being the "modulus" of the system. It is obvious that a metre and a yard measure are not so pocketable as the "module," and that is why Mr. Taylor discards the yard and the metre. A cubic "modulus" would be called a "moidus," and a "moidus" of water gives the "pondus" of weight. It will suffice to show the author's intention by quoting his table of weights:—

		Weights		Avoirdupois		
	Cubic inches			Pounds	Oz.	Grains
Cubes,						
$\frac{1}{2}$ inch =	1.512 =	1 mite =	..	..	..	0.4936
$\frac{1}{4}$ " =	1.64 =	1 carat =	..	..	..	3.949
$\frac{1}{8}$ " =	$\frac{1}{2}$ =	1 scrup =	..	..	..	31.593
1 " =	1 =	1 semy =	..	..	..	252.745
2 inches =	8 =	1 ounce =	..	4	271.96	
4 " =	64 =	1 libra =	2	4	425.63	
8 " =	512 =	1 stone =	18	7	342.94	
16 " =	4,096 =	1 PONDUS =	147	14	113.52	
32 " =	32,768 =	1 ton =	1,183	2	73.16	
64 " =	262,144 =	1 load =	9,451	1	147.73	
128 " =	2,097,152 =	1 keel =	75,720	10	307.24	

The measures of capacity are the corresponding measures of the cubes in distilled water. The author states that on of the great beauties and advantages resulting from octonary divisions is shown by this table. By the simple device of using multiples of one, two, and four times the size of such of these weights or measures as may be desirable, the use of fractions is entirely avoided, and a perfect system of weights and measures is supplied by which any conceivable amount can be easily and accurately weighed or measured. Moreover the system gives a maximum range of expression with the minimum number of pieces.

#### SACCHARINE.

IT is nearly ten years since Drs. Fahlberg and Remsen announced the discovery of a substance of surpassing sweetness from coal-tar. About two years ago, Dr. Fahlberg returned to Europe for the purpose of introducing the article into common use, and from then till now there has been more or less excitement about it. Works have been founded at Magdeburg, Germany, and it was anticipated that supplies would be ready last December; but some hitch at the works prevented the substance being placed on the market. We are now in a position to state that the company have at last succeeded in producing pure saccharine on a commercial scale, and are prepared to fill orders for any quantities up to a ton. It is anticipated that saccharine will be extensively used for medicinal purposes, and, judging from the inquiries which we have received regarding it, there are many who are eager to put it on trial. The starting-point in the manufacture of saccharine is toluene, of which enormous quantities are annually produced wherever gasworks exist. Toluene is converted into ortho- and para-toluene sulphonic acids ( $C_6H_4, CH_3SO_3H, H_2O$ ), by treating it with sulphuric acid. These acids are then converted into calcium salts, which in their turn are converted into sodium salts by treating with carbonate of soda, and are obtained in a solid state by evaporation. The next step is the conversion of the alkaline sulphonates into sulphonic chlorides, which is done by means of phosphorus trichloride and a current of chlorine. Ortho- and para-toluene sulphonic chlorides ( $C_6H_4, CH_3SO_2Cl$ ) are the chief products of this reaction. The para-toluene is of no use for making saccharine, and as it is a solid (the ortho compound being a liquid) it is got rid of by crystallisation. The ortho compound is next treated with ammonium carbonate and steam; it is thus converted into toluene sulphonic amide ( $C_6H_4, CH_3SO_2NH_2$ ), which is separated and oxidised into an ortho-toluene-sulphamido-benzoate, by means of potassium permanganate. This alkaline salt, split up with a mineral acid, yields saccharine (*syn.* anhydro-ortho-sulphamine benzoic acid, and benzoyl sulphonic amide). Its formula is—



Our inquiries enable us to state that the bitter almond odour is not characteristic of pure saccharine, but was due to the presence of benzaldehyde, and the difficulty to get rid of this was the cause of the delay in bringing saccharine into the market. It arises from the para-toluene compounds, which are formed along with the ortho compounds. The makers have succeeded in completely isolating these, and obtaining the theoretical yield of saccharine, which is the best proof of its purity.

Saccharine is sparingly soluble in water, but is soluble in alcohol. It readily dissolves in water along with a little dried carbonate of soda. The principal form in which it will be used, for sweetening the diet of diabetic patients (we may say that it has been conclusively proved that it is physiologically inactive), will be as tableids made according to the following formula:—

Saccharin .. .. .	45 grains
Dried carbonate of soda .. .. .	30 "
Mannite .. .. .	1½ oz.

Mix, and divide into 100 tableids.

Compound liquorice powder made with saccharine and without sugar cannot be distinguished from the ordinary kind, and is much less bulky. We have made palatable quinine powders from the following formula:—

Sulphate of quinine .. .. .	12 grs.
Saccharine .. .. .	1½ "
Dried carbonate of soda .. .. .	4 "

Mix and divide into 12 powders.

The bitter taste of tincture of quinine is barely perceptible after the addition of 2 grains of saccharine to each ounce, but for complete extinction of the taste of quinine its own weight is required. We shall refer more fully to the pharmaceutical uses of the substance in a future issue.

The agents in this country are Messrs. Wilson, Solomon & Co., 18 Billiter Street, E.C., who will only supply wholesale buyers.





## GOODALL'S PENNY SPICES.

FOR remarkable cheapness these penny spices, as put up by Messrs. Goodall, Backhouse & Co., surely beat the record. Ground cinnamon, cassia, mace, nutmeg, pimento, cloves, mixed spice, pepper and cayenne, all guaranteed genuine, and in fair quantity (we find, for instance, over half an ounce of ground nutmeg), are put up in convenient cylindrical tins, with perforated lids for dredging, the lid covered with a tin disc, and the whole neatly labelled to sell at one penny each. The great Yorkshire firm will certainly make a "boom" with these penny spices.

## RABBITS' FOOD.

SPRATTS PATENT have now added to their list of world-famed meals and dog cakes a new rabbit food, which has been highly approved by those who have tried it. It contains all the constituents of alimentary matter required by the rabbit, without possessing anything heating or injurious, and we shall expect it to become as noted as the other specialities issued by this company.

## Gazette.

## PARTNERSHIPS DISSOLVED.

JOHNSON & FENOULHET, Herne Bay and Sturry, surgeons and physicians.

## FIRST MEETING AND PUBLIC EXAMINATION.

WOODLIFFE, ALFRED, Bridlington, chemist. Oct. 4, Black Lion Hotel, Bridlington; Nov. 1, Court House, Scarborough.

## NOTICE OF DIVIDEND.

RANSOME, THOMAS (trading as Thomas Ransome & Co.), Manchester; Openshaw, near Manchester; and Hest Bank, near Lancaster, chemist and druggist, and manufacturing chemist. Third and final div. of 2½d., any day, Official Receiver's offices, Manchester.

## Personalities.

PROFESSOR SIR G. H. B. MACLEOD, M.D., Glasgow, has been nominated by the Queen to fill the vacancy in the General Medical Council caused by the death of Dr. Andrew Fergus.

MR. FREDERICK J. LLOYD, F.C.S., is to give the course of evening lectures on Agriculture at King's College this winter. His class meets on Fridays at 6 P.M., commencing October 14.

MR. NEIL S. CAMPBELL, of the firm of Neil Campbell & Co., Colombo, Ceylon, who has been sojourning here for over a year, will return to Ceylon on October 23 next. Mr. Campbell's address until October 20 will be 11 Brunswick Square, Gloucester.

MR. A. B. EVANS, a member of the firm of Evans, Sons & Co., Liverpool, and of Evans, Sons & Mason (Limited), Montreal, has lately left Liverpool for Montreal, where he intends to stay to take part in the conduct of the business of the Canadian firm.

THE agents for M. Roure-Bertrand Fils ask us to state that the Cross of the Legion of Honour, which in our issue of September 17 we said had been conferred on M. Bertrand, was actually given to M. Louis Roure, who is the sole proprietor of the firm trading under the style of Roure-Bertrand Fils, of Grasse.

## Obituary.

[Notices of Marriages and Deaths are inserted free if sent with proper authentication.]

ACKRILL.—On August 17, Mr. George Ackrill, chemist and druggist, Tudorville, Ross. Aged 69.

BARTON.—On September 24, Mr. William Stubblefield Barton, chemist and druggist, of Moreton Street, Pimlico. Aged 60.

GOOCH.—On September 2, Mr. Henry Gooch, chemist and druggist, Framlingham, Suffolk. Aged 82.

GOODE.—On September 21, at Congleton, Charles Goode, member of the Pharmaceutical Society. Aged 57.

OGSTON.—Emeritus Professor Ogston, M.A., M.D., died at his residence, 13 Albany Terrace, Aberdeen, on September 25. Deceased, who was born in 1803, was the son of Mr. Alexander Ogston, the founder of the large soap manufactory in Loch Street, Aberdeen, which is now carried on as the firm of Messrs. A. Ogston & Sons. He graduated in arts at Marischal College, Aberdeen, and in medicine at the Edinburgh University. His connection with the colleges of Aberdeen began in 1839, when he became Lecturer on Medical Jurisprudence. He received the Crown appointment in 1857, three years later taking the chair in the university. Prior to 1839 he was associated with Dr. Clark, Professor of Chemistry in Aberdeen (the inventor of the soap test for hard water), in the organisation of the medical school. Dr. Ogston was a man of great ability and energy, and continued his labours until 1883, when he was succeeded in the chair by Dr. Matthew Hay. He leaves two sons and a daughter. Professor Alexander Ogston is at present one of the leading teachers in the school whose reputation his father did much to found, and Professor Frank Ogston is now Lecturer on Public Health and Medical Jurisprudence in the University of Otago, New Zealand.

RIDGLEY.—On July 25, at the residence of his brother, a chemist, Townsville, Queensland, Mr. Thomas Ridgley, M.B., C.M. (Edin.). Aged 33. The deceased was brought up to the drug trade, and, after studying at Bloomsbury Square, passed the Minor examination in 1876. He afterwards chose the medical profession, and had gained the highest qualifications. He died from tetanus resulting from a fall from his horse ten days previously.

TRILFIELD.—On September 19, Mr. George Trilfield, chemist and druggist, Nuttall Street, Wavertree Road, Liverpool. Aged 62.

WILSON.—On September 24, 1887, Mr. John Wilson, pharmaceutical chemist, Harrogate. Aged 65. Mr. Wilson was born at Malton, where for many years his father, who died at the ripe age of eighty-nine, kept the Rose and Crown Inn, one of those real old coaching houses that now belong almost to the past. Leaving Malton he served an apprenticeship to a then well-known chemist, named Spurr, of York, and afterwards went to London. In 1846 he opened a shop in Harrogate, and soon became known and respected by a wide circle of residents and visitors. There years later he married a daughter of the late Mr. Coupland, of Harrogate, and his widow and five children survive him. Mr. Wilson never took any prominent part in public affairs, never sought local honours, but from the sterling common-sense and practical insight he brought to bear on all subjects he discussed, there were few public projects on which his opinion was not sought by his more prominent fellow townsmen. After many years of labour he removed in 1876 to larger premises in West Park. Then he began to take the labours of life with greater ease, but he could not settle down in idleness, and hence generally attended to business several hours daily, and it was whilst thus in harness he was seized in 1882 with paralysis. He was removed to his private residence, and recovered sufficiently to take bathchair exercise, but never regained full power. During the last few months he slowly grew worse, was confined to bed, and finally, after a period of considerable suffering, succumbed on Saturday evening last.



## Legal Reports.

### THE HOP BITTERS PROSECUTIONS.

IN the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Charles, sitting as the Vacation Judge, had in his list the case of the Hop Bitters Company *v.* the Brighton Co-operative Drug Company. Before it was reached, however, Mr. Eve informed his Lordship that the action, which was to restrain the defendant company from using the plaintiff company's trade-mark, had been arranged between the parties, and he therefore asked that the motion should be struck out of the paper. Mr. Justice Charles consented.

### THE HOP BITTERS COMPANY (LIMITED) *v.* PERRY.

AT the same time Mr. Justice Charles granted a per petual injunction on the motion of Mr. Swinfen Eady counsel for the plaintiff company, restraining the defendant, Mr. Robert Perry, chemist and druggist, of High Street, Gravesend, from selling or offering for sale "compound hop tonic bitters," or any other colourable imitation of the plaintiff company's well-known hop bitters. There was no opposition to the motion. The action by the company was taken in respect of a preparation made and sold by the defendant in square amber-coloured glass hottles, capuled, and bearing a label with the title "Compound Hop Tonic Bitters" and other wording, the words "Hop" and "Bitters" being the most prominent.

**LIBEL ACTION.**—The result of the second trial of the libel action brought by Messrs. Rocke, Tompsitt & Co. against the Melbourne *Argus* for publishing a statement that they had shipped bisulphide of carbon from London to Melbourne under the designation of "sheep-wash" has been that the plaintiffs have been awarded 250*l.* damages. The first trial ended with a verdict for the defendants with costs.

## Trade Notes.

**MESSRS. W. CAUDERY & Co.**, chemical brokers, have removed to 1 Fenchurch Avenue, E.C.

**MESSRS. HENRY KIVER & Co.** have commenced business as colonial brokers at 123 Fenchurch Street, E.C. The partners in the firm are Messrs. Henry Kiver and Edwin C. Norden, who were, until recently, engaged with Messrs. Canny & Coulburn.

**MR. SILVERLOCK** sends us samples of his gracefully produced pocket calendars and almanacs for chemists' distribution. One of these contains a few pages of very suitable matter, such as recipes for articles for the sick-room, doses and uses of the most usual medicines, &c.

**UNDER THE STYLE OF COMAR & CIE** a company has been formed at Paris for the manufacture of Auhergier's lactucarium syrup and paste and other preparations. The duration of the company is fixed for twenty-five years from September 1, and the capital at 800,000*fr.*, 600,000 of which are *en commandite*. The offices are Rue Saint-Claude 28, Paris, and the works at Clermont-Ferrand.

**MR. FREDERIC R. CRESSWELL**, of Messrs. Cresswell Brothers, 2 Red Lion Square, W.C., has just arrived at Aegina (Greece), where Messrs. Cresswell Brothers have their own establishment. From there he will proceed to other parts of the sponge fisheries in the Levant, in order to assist at the extensive purchasing and packing of their new season's sponges, some of which they have already received.

**MESSRS. C. OSTERTAG & Co.**, drug and chemical merchants, of Zurich (Switzerland), announce the retirement from the firm of Mr. C. Ostertag. The business has been taken over by the remaining partner, Mr. J. H. Krahforst, and will be continued by him under his own name.

**MESSRS. BURROUGHS, WELLCOME & Co.** inform us that the demand for their Manchester souvenirs, consequent on a note in this column last week, has temporarily exhausted their stock; but a large order for the photographs is being prepared, and the souvenirs will be delivered without much delay.

## BANKRUPTCY REPORT.

### *Re* HERBERT TAYLOR, Merchant (trading as David Taylor & Sons).

THE first meeting of the creditors of this firm was held on September 28 at the Bankruptcy Court, before Mr. Wildy, the Assistant Official Receiver. The firm's gross liabilities are returned at 125,530*l.*, but of this amount only 28,254*l.* is expected to rank, while the assets are estimated at 9,774*l.* Creditors to the amount of about 12,000*l.* had sent in proxies to the Official Receiver, while about half a dozen appeared in person. Among the latter were Mr. Samuel Figgis, for Messrs. Lewis & Peat, Mr. Fred. Bartlett (F. C. Bowyer & Bartlett), Mr. Christopherson (C. Christopherson & Co.), Mr. Galloway (Messrs. Dalton & Young), and Mr. Macintyre (J. H. Macintyre & Co.). A claim was unexpectedly put in by Messrs. C. J. Guy & Co., on behalf of Mrs. Taylor, the debtor's wife, for 17,417*l.*, the estimated capitalised value of the annuity for life of 1,500*l.* which Mr. Taylor in 1882 had agreed to allow his wife, under a deed of separation. After a lengthy discussion the Assistant Receiver directed the claim to stand over for further consideration, it being neither accepted nor rejected. It transpired that no similar claim had occurred under the present Bankruptcy Act.

Mr. Taylor, sen., who was assisted by Mr. Munns, solicitor (Munns & Longden), answering questions put to him by the creditors present, stated that the Misses Sarah, Rebecca, and Eliza Taylor, who figured in the list of creditors, were aunts of his, who had invested their money in his firm, the house of David Taylor & Sons acting practically as bankers for a large section of the family. No vouchers were given for the money thus invested, but different amounts were received from this source as late as 1883. Mr. Herbert Taylor, the present debtor, is the sole surviving trustee of the estates of the Misses Rebecca and Sarah Taylor, now deceased, but a great many persons were interested in these estates.

On behalf of the debtor, Mr. Munns then submitted a scheme for vesting the estate in a trustee. For this office he proposed Mr. Alfred Good, accountant, who had been in the habit of auditing the books of the firm, the trustee to administer the estate, as if the debtor had been adjudged a bankrupt, and he assisted by a committee of inspection, composed of Messrs. Figgis, Greenhough, and Christopherson. The scheme included a proviso for the sale to the debtor of the estate for a sum sufficient to make up the amount of 7,500*l.* (the Official Receiver having at present in hand 4,481*l.*) to be divided among the creditors. This sum does not include whatever may be realised from Messrs. Taylors' claim on the bankrupt firm of Winthrop Cunningham & Sons in Philadelphia.

Mr. Taylor, in reply to Mr. Figgis, said he could not give any explanation of the large sums drawn by his son and co-partner, which were greatly in excess of the one-fifth of the profits to which the latter was entitled by deed of partnership. His son did not bring any money into the firm. A careful scrutiny of the firm's affairs showed that at the beginning of the year there was a surplus of about 4,500*l.* The goods which formed the subject of the claims by Messrs. Lewis & Peat, Bowyer & Bartlett, Dalton & Young, and others, and which were partly ordered only a few days before the firm's failure, were not bought on speculation, but in execution of orders, and when he bought them he believed himself solvent. No explanation was given of the loss of a large amount of money otherwise than in goods. Mr. Figgis suggested that it might, upon further investigation, transpire that at the time of execution of the deed of separation between Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, the former was not in a position to allow an annuity of 1,500*l.* a year, and that that deed might consequently be void. He also thought that the trade creditors should be placed upon a more advantageous footing than the family creditors. It was proposed on behalf of the trade creditors that they should be paid a dividend of 10*s.* in the pound, exclusive of the family creditors, and that the remainder of the estate should afterwards be divided. Mr. Taylor, as sole surviving trustee of some of the family creditors, refused to give his assent to this proposal, and Mr. Munns's scheme was ultimately adopted, the creditors present not dissenting. Mr. Fred. Bartlett was, however, appointed a member of the committee of inspection in the place of Mr. Greenhough, who was not present.



## Foreign and Colonial.

OVER TWO MILLION OF GLASS EYES are annually manufactured, it is said, in Germany and Switzerland alone.

**SOAP FOR ZANZIBAR.**—The importation of soap into Zanzibar is very large, the bulk coming from France (Marseilles), Germany, America, and England. The most popular varieties are mottled, two-thirds blue and one-third white, or two-thirds white and one-third red, being most frequently asked for. It is sold in boxes of eighteen pieces and imported in cases of twenty boxes, at \$25 per case. American soap is quite red or dark coloured, is sold in 8lb. boxes, of which twenty go to a \$13 case.

**ANOTHER SCOURGE IN ASIA MINOR.**—The phylloxera has now been added to the scourges which are visiting the Asiatic provinces of Turkey this season. The insect is now, it seems, devastating the vineyards on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus, and the disease is spreading with alarming rapidity at Kizil-Toprak and Erenkeui, threatening to attack every vineyard in that neighbourhood. The Turkish papers are requesting the Government to take immediate measures in order to arrest the progress of the evil, and especially prevent it from spreading to the other provinces of the Empire where wine-growing is practised on a large scale, as, for instance, Smyrna, which alone produces grapes to the value of about 1,000,000*l.* It can be easily imagined that it would mean nothing short of ruin for this province were the phylloxera to attack the vineyards there.

**HOMŒOPATHY IN THE UNITED STATES.**—Homœopathy has so grown in the United States that it now includes the following:—

Practitioners .. .. .	11,000
Medical colleges .. .. .	14
Matriculants annually .. .. .	1,200
Graduates annually .. .. .	400
Hospitals (with 4,500 beds; mortality, 1·5 per cent.) ..	57
Insane asylums .. .. .	3
Dispensaries .. .. .	48
Societies .. .. .	150
Journals .. .. .	23
Pharmacies .. .. .	33
College of specialties .. .. .	1

The American Institute of Homœopathy is the oldest medical association in the country.

**A LOST FORMULARY.**—Messrs. Sharland & Co., of Auckland, N.Z., some time ago did a smart thing in engaging Mr. Theodore Piesse, a younger son of the late Mr. Septimus Piesse, to manufacture perfumes for them. Mr. Piesse was at the time on a visit to the antipodes, and as his connection with the firm of Piesse & Lubin had ceased, the engagement was no doubt as convenient for him as it was for the Messrs. Sharland. Unfortunately for Mr. Piesse, amongst some property which he had left with a certain Mr. H. H. Barnett to cover a bill which he owed him, was his perfumery receipt book. This he asked for in a friendly sort of way after he entered Messrs. Sharland's employment, but Barnett refused to part with it, and in an action for the recovery of it Mr. Piesse was not more successful. One statement says that civil proceedings have been since instituted for the recovery of the book, but that hitherto Mr. Barnett cannot be found. Several reports from New Zealand regarding the Messrs. Sharland's share in the matter have reached us, and it has been stated that they offered the holder of the receipt book a large sum to restore it to Mr. Piesse. These reports are, we understand, grossly exaggerated, and Messrs. Sharland assert that they neither inspired nor supported Mr. Piesse in his action. Messrs. Piesse & Lubin—who, it is evident, are the parties who should feel most aggrieved about the matter—tell us that Messrs. Sharland & Co.'s conduct has been perfectly above board.

**THE INTRODUCTION OF KAURI GUM INTO AMERICA.**—The *O. P. & D. Reporter* understands that the first importation of kauri gum into the United States was made in 1849 as an experiment; the cargo of the vessel was discharged at New Bedford, Mass., and there being no sale for the gum, it was stored in an old barn at that place, where it remained for three years without attracting attention. Just when the owners had

concluded that the stock was a dead loss on their hands, an Englishman named John Boyd, who had started into the varnish-gum business in New York and was looking out for something fresh in his line, happened to obtain a sample of the kauri gum, and induced Messrs. Smith & Stratton to test it for the purpose of making varnish. It gave satisfaction, and as a result of the introduction the firm named purchased through Mr. Boyd 100,000 lbs. of the 800,000 lbs. stored at New Bedford at 2½*c.* per lb. Previously Manila copal was used almost exclusively for making the cheaper varnishes, and the low price of kauri influenced other manufacturers to try it. Increased demand strengthened the views of the holders, and the last 8,000 lbs. of the original cargo were purchased by Messrs. Smith & Stratton in 1853 for 35*c.* per lb. The popularity of kauri over Manila copal encouraged the importation of the former, and in a short time the market was overstocked, thus causing a reaction in values, which continued until 1860, when the best grades of kauri could be purchased on spot or laid down in New York at 4½*c.* per lb. When the war tariff came into operation varnish gums were made dutiable at the rate of 10*c.* per lb. in gold, and as a consequence the market advanced rapidly.

**THE GERMAN ANILINE DYE INDUSTRY.**—In consequence of the constant discoveries which are being made in this branch, the old dyes are continually losing ground, their place being taken by new ones, possessing some special advantage, such as a greater capacity for enduring exposure to the light, or for maintaining their colours during the process of washing. A large supply of these old-fashioned dyes is therefore left on the hands of the producers, competition is severe, and, on the whole, the condition of the industry cannot be regarded as a very satisfactory one. On the other hand, the sales of azo dyes are constantly increasing to a quite unexpected degree, even of those the method of preparing which is no particular novelty. This remark applies particularly to those cotton dyes the secret of which was discovered in 1835. Through a series of indefatigable investigations, it has been possible to produce a whole series of these particular dyes in yellow, orange, scarlet, cherry-red, violet and blue, and the demand has been so great that the dyeworks in Elberfeld have been enlarged on a considerable scale. As all these cotton dyes are protected by patents in the various countries of Europe, and as the Elberfeld manufacturers have them principally in their own hands, the increased trade, naturally accompanied by a very decided increase in profits, has proved highly remunerative to the Elberfeld dyeworks.—*Kuhlens.*

**BULGARIAN PHARMACIES.**—An Austrian pharmacist, who has lately returned from Philippopolis, gives in a local journal some details regarding the condition of pharmacy in that part of Bulgaria formerly known as Eastern Roumelia. Allowing for a strong anti-Bulgarian bias on the writer's part, the exercise of pharmaceutical functions in the new state appears to be much hampered by vexatious regulations. Under the rule of the Turks the chemist's craft was, of course, entirely neglected; and when Eastern Roumelia became a semi-independent province, scarcely one out of every ten pharmacists practising in the country knew anything at all about pharmacy. The Bulgarian pharmacy law has lately been applied to Roumelia, and its provisions are said to be extremely numerous, and of a most vexatious character, while almost every infringement of the rules is punished by the compulsory closing of the pharmacy. Within two years all pharmacists carrying on business in Roumelia will have to obtain a proper diploma of "Magister der Pharmacie," that of the Constantinople school being expressly excluded because it may be purchased at a fixed tariff! Every Roumelian pharmacy has its own medical men, who attend there daily for consultation. The pharmacist adds the fee to the cost of the prescription, and settles with the doctor afterwards. There is an official tariff for drugs and prescriptions, but it is placed so low that the pharmacists are seldom able to keep within its limits. Thus the maximum price which the Roumelian retail pharmacist is permitted to charge for powdered cubebs is at the rate of 8*d.* per 100 grammes, or considerably below the present London wholesale rates, and about one half of the Bulgarian wholesale price. There ought to be a good opening here for the well-known lot of powdered cubebs still floating about Mincing Lane.



## CONSULS' REPORTS.

## BELGIUM.

*Petroleum at Antwerp.* Low prices have brought about an increased consumption of this valuable product, while the new applications of petroleum for illuminating purposes in the form of "electric," and other highly-improved lamps for domestic use, have developed in this substance properties hitherto unknown. New qualities, especially Russian, have been introduced, the importation of the latter description having increased from 7,000 barrels in 1885, to 91,000 barrels in 1886. This oil is mostly imported in a British steamer, which is specially fitted up with tanks for the purpose.

## BRAZIL.

*Imports into Rio.* The imports of chemicals into Rio Janeiro are on the increase, the value having been 2,375,617 milreis in 1885-86, against 2,194,745 milreis in 1884-85. Of perfumery, dyes, kerosene, &c., the imports during these periods were, respectively, 2,913,608 and 2,554,299 milreis.

*British Trade.* Although the articles of perfumery and the chemicals directly imported into Rio from the United Kingdom form but a small part of the whole, the imports from this source are increasing with far greater rapidity than from others, having been as follows:—

	1884-5	1885-6
	Milreis	Milreis
Plants, seeds, &c.	348,113	608,888
Perfumery .. ..	406,704	563,368
Chemicals .. ..	423,875	549,862
Surgical instruments .. ..	32,957	35,042

The total British imports into Rio rose from 36,265,211 milreis in 1884-85 to 39,721,130 milreis in 1885-86, an advance of 10 per cent.

## BRAZIL.

*The Germans at Rio Grande do Sul.* Great efforts are being made by the Germans to completely control the trade of the district of Rio Grande do Sul, in North-Eastern Brazil.

The British imports passing through the Rio Grande do Sul custom-house in 1886 amounted to 143,897*l.*, and German to 142,824*l.* These values are not obtained from the invoices, but are "official" values established as a basis for collecting duties. They do not by any means represent the actual trade value, but are sufficiently accurate to deduce general conclusions from.

*Decrease in British Imports.* There are only three British importing houses in the town, and, with the exception of a very few good native and foreign houses of business, all the remainder are controlled by Germans.

Moreover, in the province of Rio Grande do Sul a very large proportion of the purchasing class are Germans by nationality or descent, and, when their tastes can be suited with German goods, it is only natural that the traders should purchase from their own country, rather than from the foreigner. The bulk of the British imports may, therefore, be considered as goods which cannot yet be produced in Germany, and exported thence so cheaply as from England.

There is no doubt but that the feeling widely prevails that what is of British manufacture is good, but the selling power primarily lies in cheapness; and a fraudulent trademark, a familiarly-coloured box, or a well-known label will generally induce the purchaser to believe that he is buying for less money the serviceable article which answered his purpose so well before.

The question of supplying inferior goods to compete with German deserves careful attention, but the risk of making a present profit at the expense of a loss of reputation for good workmanship should never be lost sight of, especially as a revival of trade generally would probably first be felt by those who had consistently in evil days produced the best work.

*Drugs and Chemicals.* In drugs and chemicals alone, of which Great Britain ships about 5,000*l.* worth in the course of a year, this country continues to enjoy a supremacy in trade.

## FRANCE.

*"Wine" Manufacture at La Rochelle.* Owing to the ravages of mildew and phylloxera there are now scarcely any vines left in the district of La Rochelle, and very little wine is made from grapes, most of what is sold as claret being manufactured from raisins and currants by a very simple process, which consists in steeping them in water at a temperature of about 70° until fermentation takes place; a little red Spanish wine is then added to give colour and it is ready for use. When prepared in this way the wine is pleasant to the taste, and considered perfectly wholesome; and if sold for what it really is, and at its proper price, there would be no reason to complain. It is now, however, being sent to England, where it is no doubt sold and charged for as claret. If so, it would be much better that the English people should make their own wine for themselves, instead of importing it from France, now that grapes are no longer required. There are places in the department where hundreds of gallons are turned out daily, at a cost of about 5*d.* or 6*d.* per gallon. The raisins and currants with which it is made are imported from the Mediterranean, through London in a great measure, and, therefore, should cost even less in England than here, and the small amount of Spanish wine added ought not to cost more; so that there seems an opening for a profitable business in this line in Britain. This claret, as made here, contains only about 6 per cent. of alcohol, and more has to be added before it is exported; but this adds little to the cost, because the laws of France allow the alcohol required to strengthen wine for exportation free of duty, and it is, therefore, made up to about 15 per cent. before being shipped with cheap German spirit, worth about 2*s.* per gallon. And this export bounty is now leading to a new and rather ingenious kind of fraud on the French revenue, which is managed in this way:—The raisin wine, as made, contains 6 per cent. of alcohol; the maker then states that he wants to export it, and applies to the revenue authorities for the amount of spirit required to strengthen it up to 15°, which he gets duty free. He then sends it to England or some foreign country, whence it is re-shipped to France as Spanish wine (which is allowed in at a low tariff, for the purpose of doctoring French wine). The spirit then is extracted from it and sold, having thus been obtained without paying any duty.

## GERMANY.

*Drugs for Stettin.* The port of Stettin imported in 1885 385,396*l.* worth of drugs and chemicals (weight, 23,360 tons), and in 1886 465,548*l.* worth (weight, 20,406 tons).

Writing from Stuttgart on the trade of Wurtemberg in 1886, our consul makes the following observations:—

*Chocolate.* Consumption in Germany increases, but the export trade in German chocolate, which formerly was very large, especially with England, France, Switzerland, and Holland, has now disappeared, competition having become impossible owing to the import duty on cocoa in Germany.

*Oils.* The trade of the year was favourable. The poorness of the poppy crop at home and in the Levant kept the prices good. The demand for oil-cake, as food for cattle, is a special and increasing characteristic of Wurtemberg.

*Colours.* The lowest point yet reached was at the beginning of this year, but with the conclusion of that period an improvement set in. The principal firm in the country, the Anilin and Soda Fabrik which in 1882, paid a dividend of 25 per cent., paid in 1885 only 12 per cent., and at the end of last year 15 per cent.

*Indigo.* In the indigo trade the year was unfavourable, owing to the abundant stock already in hand, and the large import of the finer qualities of Java and Bengal indigos.

*Soap.* Business was tolerably satisfactory during the year. The price of the raw material ceased to fall, and in the last quarter, showed a tendency to improve. Owing to the failure of the cocoa-nut crop, manufacturers were obliged to have recourse to mineral oils.

*Drugs.* Trade was not satisfactory, prices were very low, and an improvement which had begun to appear towards the end of the year was interrupted by the war scare in Europe.



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By reason of an improved method of caption, by which dilution is avoided, **FRIEDRICHSHALL WATER** will be found now to be of **CONSIDERABLY GREATER STRENGTH and EFFICACY** than heretofore.

*The ordinary dose is a large wineglassful (4 ounces) taken fasting. Most efficacious and more acceptable to the palate when heated or mixed with an equal quantity of very hot water.*

"After twenty years' use I appreciate it as highly as ever."  
**Professor VIRCHOW.**

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 SEE ADVERTISEMENT, PAGE 35.

**WOODHALL SPA**  
**BROMO IODINE MINERAL WATER.**  
*The strongest known Iodine Water in the World.*

This remarkable Spa has been purchased by a Syndicate of gentlemen who have determined to make more widely known the extraordinary curative powers of this spring, which contains more Iodine and Bromine than any spring in Europe—"And, we may safely add, in any part of the World."—*Dr. Cuffe, for many years late resident Physician at Woodhall Spa.*

An analysis of the water having been made in November, 1886, by Professor Wanklyn, M.R.C.S., corresponding member of the Royal Bavarian Academy of Sciences, Professor of Chemistry, a very important discovery has been made, viz., the presence of Free or Elementary Iodine.

Dr. Wanklyn says—"So far as I am aware, this is the first instance in which free Iodine has been found in appreciable quantity in a natural water. For many years the Woodhall Spa has been celebrated as a valuable remedy in skin diseases. The fact that it is a solution of free Iodine is interesting in this connection, and well worthy of the attention of the medical profession."

The Woodhall Bromo Iodine Water is now being bottled at the Spring by the Sole Agents, **BROMLEY & CO., Chemists, 233 High Street, Lincoln, 5 & 6 The Grove, Buxton,** and at Woodhall. All communications to be addressed to them at the **Spa, Woodhall Horncastle.**

*A. W. Carter & Co. Estd 1831*  
*Soluble Essences for Mineral Waters*  
*Old Refinery Bristol*

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

### BLOOMSBURY RESEARCH.

It is generally known that in March of last year the Pharmaceutical Council adopted a comprehensive scheme of pharmaceutical research, and, partially as the outcome of that, have commenced building operations which will absorb about a sixth of the Society's funded capital for the part now progressing, while much more will disappear before the operations are completed. In anticipation of better quarters, what is known as the Octagon, or Examination Laboratory, of 17 Bloomsbury Square was set aside for research purposes, with Professor Dunstan as director. Last year a grant of 50% was made to the director for research purposes, and some expensive apparatus has also been obtained at the Society's expense. It is interesting to note that the work already done in the new institution is represented by four papers, one on "The Pharmacopoeial Test for the Purity of Ether," a second on "The Galenical Preparations of Belladonna" (the result of a grant from the funds of the Pharmaceutical Conference), a third on "The Formation of Hyponitrites," and a fourth on "The Reduction-products of the Nitro-paraffins and Alkyl-nitrites." The first two were contributed to the Pharmaceutical Society itself, the third to the Chemical Society, and the fourth to the British Association. All are papers of considerable interest, the latter two being apparently judged by the authors to be so unpharmaceutical as to compel them to submit them to purely scientific societies. Their judgment is no doubt correct; but it strikes us that at least a summary of the papers might have been presented to the Pharmaceutical Conference, seeing that Manchester had to be visited in order to give publicity to work done in a purely pharmaceutical laboratory, and although on this opinions may differ, there will be no difference of opinion as to the necessity for a reply to two questions: (1) Has this work been conducted at the expense of the Pharmaceutical Society? and (2), Is it the kind of work the President of the Society had in his mind when he promised that the research laboratory would tackle "pharmaceutical remainders"? It would be much more satisfactory to the Pharmaceutical Society and to pharmacy generally if the work done in the Octagon Laboratory were a little less scientific. What will the Council say of it next Wednesday?

### THE PROPERTIES AND POSOLOGY OF ERGOT.

FOR some weeks back several of our correspondents have been endeavouring to outbid each other in the attempt to show what the biggest and safest dose of fluid extract of ergot may be. We are told that as much as 3 and 4 drachms



of the extract, representing as much of the drug, are given every few hours. There is nothing startling in this. We have seen whole ounce of the extract given without effect, and we believe that it is to this uncertainty that the almost universal use of the hypodermic injection of ergotin is due. Yet there are many physicians who never patronise the preparations of the drug, but stick to it in its original form, and they state that they never have failures and never exceed 1-drachm doses. Apparently the pharmacy of ergot is not in a forward condition, and the same may be said regarding its chemistry, although it is amongst the drugs which seem to have a strong fascination for investigators.

Retail chemists are not generally aware that two varieties of ergot of rye come into our markets—viz., Russian and Spanish. The latter is the kind which is familiar to the retail trade; it is a large and plump grain with the peculiar mauvish-brown black colour so characteristic of ergot. The Russian variety is in short grains, few exceeding half an inch in length, and the colour is a slate-brown. The market value of this ergot is much lower than that of the Spanish. Little of it gets into the retail trade; but we understand that it is extensively used for the manufacture of galenical preparations. Whether these varieties are identical in their chemical composition and physiological action is a point upon which investigators are silent. Yet it is a point of some importance, and is well worth the attention of any pharmacist who has an inclination to study ergot. Seeing that the varieties differ so widely in their physical appearance, may they not also differ in their properties, and in this difference may we not have an explanation of unsatisfactory therapeutic results? We trust that a complete answer to this question will ere long be given. It is probable that a difference may exist, as will be seen from what follows. Quite a large number of assumedly pure chemical bodies have been isolated from the drug by chemists, and opinions regarding the active principles are divided, one section alleging that acid principles are the active constituents, while others allege that its basic or alkaloidal bodies exhibit the peculiar property of ergot in contracting the arterial vessels. To the latter section belongs Tanret, a French chemist, who has isolated a difficultly crystallisable alkaloid, *ergotinine*, of which a hundredth of a grain injected hypodermically is said to act quickly. Dragendorff, on the other hand, pins his faith to sclerotic acid, which he and Podwissotzky isolated from ergot along with twenty other bodies. Another investigator—Kobert—attributes the action of the drug to ergotinic acid (a body of a glucosidal character) and an alkaloid, *cornutine*. There have, of course, been confirmations and refutations of these and other discoveries, but it cannot be said that our knowledge of the chemistry of the drug has become clearer on account of the hundred-and-one investigations of it. Up to the present time the following substances have been discovered in ergot:—

Camphoraceous substance	Methylamine
Cholesterin	Mycose
Cornutine	Phosphoric acid
Ecobline	Picrosclerotine
Ergotic acid	Sclererythrin
Ergotine	Scleroidin
Ergotinic acid	Scleromucin
Ergotinine	Sclerotic acid
Fixed oil	Sclercrystallin
Fuscosclerotic acid	Scleroxanthin
Lactic acid	Sphacelinic acid
Leucine	Trimethylamine
Mannite	

He would be a bold man who would say that all these bodies exist—indeed, the non-existence of many of them has been proved; nevertheless, it cannot be said that we are nearer the truth for all that has been done. Assuming that

Dragendorff has worked with Russian ergot, it is possible that that is the reason why his results are so different from Tanret's and Kobert's, who would most likely work with Spanish ergot. The assumed existence of so many bodies in the drug we take as proof of the wisdom of physicians of the old school in administering ergot in its entirety. In that form, at all events, nothing is lost. This we cannot say of any of the active principles nor of the official liquid extract. For some reason the latter has not fulfilled its expectations. The 1867 Pharmacopœia method for preparing it was objectionable; frequently the ether used to wash out the oil was not perfectly absolute, so that it removed something else than oil. That objection was removed in the 1885 Pharmacopœia, but there remains the equally serious objection—prolonged evaporation of a large volume of an infusion of the drug. No matter how carefully that may be conducted, the constituents of the infusion undergo change in the process, and to that we attribute the unreliable character of the product. Dr. Inglis Clark has shown that this evaporation is unnecessary, and that ergot may be exhausted with less than its own volume of cold water. An extract made as he directs is more reliable than the official one. The process which he recommends is based on Squibb's method of repercolation. The ergot is coarsely powdered, and on the small scale, 1 lb. of it is divided into four parts, each of which is packed in a percolator allowing a depth of six or eight inches. A portion of the menstruum is put into one percolator, and the percolate from that is put into another, and so on with each portion of menstruum. By this means it is possible without evaporation to obtain an extract as thick as treacle.

The pharmacopœial extract has now been to a large extent discarded by physicians in favour of the various ammoniacal *liquors* which are in the market. These are undoubtedly active preparations, a 30-minim dose of them being as trustworthy as an equal dose of the freshly-powdered drug. "It has been found," remarks Mr. Martindale, "that ammonia not only exhausts ergot of its active medicinal properties, but also secures a uniform, stable liquid preparation." These are just the virtues which are absent in the official extract; were they present the excessive doses which have been referred to would never occur, nor would it be necessary, as one correspondent has suggested, to have two ranges of doses—one for cases of epistaxis and another for obstetric purposes. There is no sharp line of demarcation between the two requirements, as there is not in the physiological action in each case. It is true that minute doses have been recommended to prevent threatened abortion, but these would give the dispenser no anxiety. The ordinary dose of ergot is from 5 to 30 grains; it is rarely necessary to exceed the maximum, and we never heard of more than 60 grains being required. There should be no difficulty in obtaining a preparation which will truly represent the drug, and when this is the case excessive doses will rarely be heard of.

## HOSPITAL LIFE.

THE medical journals have published their educational numbers, the new session of the medical schools is about to commence, and the chosen orators at each are just now putting the finishing touches to their inaugural addresses. Neither from the journals nor from the orators can the neophyte gather anything but a vague idea of the life which he is to lead for the next four years, and the ideas he has himself formed of it, and perhaps the stories he has heard of it, may all prove strangely wide of the reality. But at this moment appears a novel in which the writer sketches, always



with skill, and sometimes with graphic power, the salient features of a medical student's career at one of the great London hospitals. "St. Bernard's: a Romance of a Medical Student," which professes to be written by Æsculapius Scalpel, and is published by Messrs. Swan, Sonnenschein, Lowrey & Co., is very decidedly a novel with a purpose. The purpose, indeed, is so marked that it shoulders the story into quite insignificant proportions. Plot there is none whatever. Harrowby Elsworth, the hero of the tale, who enters upon his professional studies in the first chapter, has "a graceful bearing and manly carriage," together with a "full, deep, earnest, clear, and honest eye by which you could look into his soul." Presuming that the other eye matched the one described, this youth seems intended to "go far" in the usual labyrinths of fiction. But he does nothing of the kind. He falls in love at the end of the book, there is no obstacle of any sort to his marriage, so his romance has nothing to do with his love affairs. It is concerned with more serious matters. Elsworth joins his school full of generous aspirations, enthusiasm, and even sentiment. The atmosphere of the place, however, while it stifles the aspirations and discourages the enthusiasm, develops instead a callous indifference to the sufferings of others, and a cold, selfish ambition for himself. But Elsworth's higher nature ultimately reasserts itself, and he, with a few other of the nobler characters in the book, are left organising and working a scheme of hospital service, the first object of which is to be the care of patients, and not the instruction of the younger doctors and the experiments of the older ones.

On this framework the author gives a series of sketches illustrating the routine of hospital-life, and describing the professors, the patients, the students, and the camp-followers. There can be no doubt that the author has himself passed through the experiences which he narrates with singular vividness and humour, as well as with an artistic distribution of light and shade; he writes with no passion, nor does he appear to be influenced by sectarian or polemical bias; but the effect of his disclosures is startling. He has drawn up a grave indictment against the system on which our great hospitals are conducted at this moment, and his charges cry loudly either for a sufficient reply or for a radical reform. Take first the treatment of out-patients. It is well known that people well able to afford to pay for medical advice "occupy the time of the staff and deplete the resources of the hospital to the extent of many thousands of pounds' worth annually in London alone." That is a grievance which medical men sometimes complain of themselves. But it is not the principal drawback to the out-patient system. It is sad to see it acknowledged, but it is incontrovertible, that "children and adults of both sexes go week after week to the out-patient department, when, every time they leave their room for the purpose, the exposure, the necessary fatigue, the long waiting in draughty and over-ventilated rooms does them more harm than any medical treatment they can receive, under such circumstances, can do good." That is a gloomy picture, but there is worse still. Here is a sketch from life:—"A half-dead woman, with lungs far advanced in the destructive changes of pulmonary consumption, applies for treatment. She is examined with care and kindness by the physician, who having satisfied himself as to the nature and progress of the disease, makes the requisite notes of the case and hands her over to his class for, perhaps, a dozen more fatiguing examinations. She has been waiting probably two or three hours for the interview, for another hour or more she must be stethoscoped, percussed, pounded, and pummelled, while the students are picking up from her emaciated and wasting frame the elements of their profession. Nobody at the hospital supposes for a moment they can do her any good,

but she offers herself, in her ignorance, day after day, a sacrifice on the altar of science, that her abnormal breathing-sounds and other phenomena of disease may teach young men how to earn a respectable living."

We cannot spare space to quote the scenes, far more thrilling than this one, which are represented as occurring within the wards. We can only indicate a few. Here is a middle-aged woman, known to have only a short time to live, who has been persuaded to consent to a capital operation ostensibly as the one chance of saving her life, really because the house-surgeon cannot lose such a chance of practice. There is a butcher with compression of the brain; he is to be trephined, and the staff will then be able to investigate the latest theory of "localisation of brain functions." An elderly woman came in with a contused side, but has been found to have a peculiarly interesting bony growth on her leg, which was no inconvenience to her at all; but a new method of treatment of such a case has lately been reported from Vienna, so she is to be operated upon. An Irish bricklayer with a broken thigh is brought in. The house-surgeon, just turned twenty-two, is determined on an amputation. "If I let this go I may complete my term of office without another chance of doing anything half so good." Poor Pat pleads not for himself, but for his "missis and the bits of childher," for whom he will never be able to work again if they take his leg off; but the priest is sent for, is assured it is *really* necessary, speaks a few loving words in his ear, and the poor fellow submits. "But I hope it is *really* necessary, doctor," whispers the priest, half doubtingly as he leaves. "I could have saved the leg if it had been my case," said Senior Surgeon Bishop after the operation; "but it would have been hard on Wilson to make him lose his chance."

"How is a medical man to learn his business if he does not pick it up at the hospital?" "I don't know," was the reply; "but I fancy these confounded Socialist fellows will put a stop to all this sort of thing before the world is much older." And according to Æsculapius Scalpel, Socialistic teaching is beginning to have that effect already. There are patients who provokingly assert their right "to know what you are about with them." These persons are not liked in the wards, and are frequently cured right away and sent about their business with indecent haste. A sort of ungrateful folk that want to get all they can out of the hospitals and then he off. "Like to know what they thinks 'ospitals is for?" says Podger, the receiving-room nurse; "seems to me they think 'em 'otels."

"I wish to investigate," said one of his dressers, "the presence of lithic acid in the blood of rheumatic patients. May I blister one or two of your patients, Mr. Crowe?" "Oh, certainly," said the obliging physiologist; "only you must take precautions to let the patient imagine you are doing it for his benefit."

But what can be done? Medical students must learn their profession, and they would not be allowed to practise on the House of Lords. How are new drugs to be tested? Experiments on the lower animals are not completely conclusive. No practitioner would dare to transfer his experiments direct from a dog to a duke. What better can we have than the present hospital system? The rich subscribe and feel the glow of satisfaction at their generosity, and they secure besides the advantage of a constant supply of skilful and trained physicians and surgeons. The medical staff gain reputation and fortune, and the students get their education provided for them at a cost of about 25 guineas a year. Lastly, there is no doubt a fair proportion of the poor get cured of their diseases; and if some of them are experimented upon rather more than they need be, they



never know it, and are not on the whole dissatisfied. Why does this uncomfortable writer interfere?

He could doubtless give a very sufficient answer. Anyway, his book will be read by thousands of subscribers to hospitals, and will have a considerable effect. It is exaggerated, of course, like every work in which it is attempted to put in relief some special characteristics of a system. The sacrifice of patients to researches is not the invariable rule, even at the most advanced of our hospitals. But an answer is called for to the question whether the tendency is what it is here made to appear, and one or two of the orators of the medical schools might choose a more unprofitable theme for their opening addresses than a reply to this author. But even if it can be shown that "St. Bernard's" is in some respects unjust, the book is one which should certainly be read by everyone entering on the study of medicine. And not for the sake of its cleverness only. Its sketches of the students, of Mr. Matthew Crowe, the professor of physiology and vivisectionist, of Nurse Podger, of Sister Agnes, who secedes from the hospital, and of the "Tea and Anarchy Association," are drawn in outline only, but the characters are flesh and blood, delineated by a master in the art. Moreover, the tone of the book is such that it should have some influence in arming the young student against the insidious temptations of scientific atheism and inhumanity which young Elsworth so hardly resisted, and which submerge so many.

**A Month's Work.** In the month just ended, the four issues of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST contained 140 pages of literary matter, which with the advertisements make a total of 346 printed pages, an average of over 86 per week. We devoted 36 pages to reporting the meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, apart from the editorial comments on the proceedings. The report was illustrated by seven engravings, including a portrait of the president. Sixteen pages were filled with educational matters of special interest to chemists, and we gave a succinct report of the meeting of the British Association. Reports of the drug markets of the world occupied 16 pages, exclusive of a large amount of space devoted to notes of commercial interest, and special articles on the present position of several important commodities. Fully 400 correspondents gave publicity to their opinions or asked for information. Sixty-three formulae were given, as well as the Unofficial Formulary and critical comments upon it. Matters of weekly occurrence received due attention; in fact, we did not allow the annual occurrences to limit the reports of daily matters which chemists look for on Saturday mornings. The actual cost of all this to each subscriber, including postage of the four numbers to any part of the world, may be reckoned at  $7\frac{1}{2}d$ . Yet Mr. Giffen has had the hardihood to ask, "Are we progressing?"

\* \*

**The Revenue and Tradesmen.** Somebody connected with the Board of Inland Revenue seems to have strangely blundered, and somebody—including, probably, a number of chemists—will have to suffer for the blunder. The Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1887, gives power to companies and corporations to pay an annual composition of 1s. per cent. on the paid-up capital in lieu of stamps on transfers of shares and stocks. Several companies have already taken advantage of the power, and the rest will be pretty sure to follow suit. As an indication of the miscalculation that has been made, it has been mentioned that one company, with a paid-up capital of 660,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., has compounded for the sum of 330 $\frac{1}{2}$ l., while their payments for stamp duties on account of transfers have averaged 3,000 $\frac{1}{2}$ l. per annum.

The Board will have to make up its income somehow, and it is not unlikely that the screw will be turned on the dealers in various dutiable articles. Reprisals have, indeed, already commenced. Half-a-dozen respectable shopkeepers were summoned before the Cardiff magistrates last week on charges of selling silver goods without being duly licensed.

The Inland Revenue Act, 30 & 31 Vic., chap. 90, secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5, provides that any person selling articles wholly or in part silver the weight of which is over 2 dwts. and under 2 oz. for gold, or over 5 dwts. and under 30 oz. for silver, must take out a licence, the annual cost of which is 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  6s. It has always been understood that tradesmen might sell articles with silver or gold ornaments—such as smelling-bottles with silver tops, umbrellas with silver on the handle, prayer-books with silver clasps, &c.—if the silver did not exceed the 5 dwts. The Board, however, now declare that if the smelling-bottle, umbrella, or prayer-book weigh more than the 5 dwts. an unlicensed seller is liable to a penalty. The magistrates at Cardiff expressed themselves very indignantly against the Board, and fined the defendants only 5s. each, refusing costs. One magistrate said in his experience the excise officers, in getting up their cases, incited tradesmen to commit offences. We do not see how this applied to the cases before the bench at the time, but it can hardly be said that the prosecutors left the Court without a stain on their character.

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**The Deeds of Arrangement Act, 1887.** In our review of the year's legislation last week we omitted to notice the somewhat obscure but important Act mentioned in the margin. This Act, which will come into operation at the commencement of next year in England and Ireland, makes it necessary to have the following instruments registered, whether under seal or not, when made in respect of the affairs of a debtor for the benefit of his creditors generally (except in bankruptcy), that is to say:—An assignment of property; a deed of or agreement for a composition; and in cases where the creditors obtain any control over the property or business of the debtor; a deed of inspectorship entered into for the purpose of carrying on or winding up a business; a letter of licence authorising the debtor or any other persons to manage, carry on, realise, or dispose of a business with a view to the payment of debts; and any agreement or instrument entered into for the purpose of carrying on or winding up the debtor's business, or authorising the debtor or any other person to manage, carry on, realise, or dispose of the debtor's business with a view to the payment of his debts. After the commencement of the Act, any such instrument as aforesaid will be void unless within seven clear days after the first execution thereof by any person it be registered in the manner prescribed by the Act. The registration and the keeping of the register will be similar to the registration of bills of sale, and searches may be made and copies obtained in like manner. In cases outside the metropolitan district, the registrar is to send a copy (not an abstract) within three clear days after registration to the county court of the district where the debtor resides or carries on his business, so that there will be no difficulty in obtaining access to a copy of the actual arrangement made in any case. Any person paying a fee of 1s. is to be at liberty to inspect any registered document, and to extract therefrom the dates of execution and registration, the names, addresses, and descriptions of the debtor and of the parties to the deed, a short statement of the nature and effect of the document; and any other particulars which may be prescribed by rules to be made under the Act; which rules may be made in the same manner as rules of the High Court of Justice are now authorised to be made. The Act will not prevent bankruptcy proceedings being taken by a dissatisfied creditor in any case where the arrangement amounts to an act of bankruptcy; and there is no provision enabling the majority to bind the minority as in bankruptcy. The advantage conferred by the Act is an increased facility for ascertaining who has made a private assignment or other arrangement with his creditors.

**SWEATING OF THE FEET.**—The latest remedies are a foot-bath of nitro-hydrochloric acid. Add just as much of the B.P. dilute acid to the water as will make it pleasantly acid. A dusting-powder consisting of 15 parts boracic acid, 25 parts oxide of zinc, and 60 French chalk, applied freely to the socks as well as to the feet, gives relief, and another method is to apply boroglyceride after carefully drying and rubbing the feet. Special attention should be paid to the skin between the toes.



## Trade Report.

*Notice to Retail Buyers:—It should be remembered that the quotations in this section are invariably the lowest net cash prices actually paid for large quantities in bulk. In many cases allowances have to be added before ordinary prices can be ascertained. Frequently goods must be picked and sorted to suit the demands of the retail trade, causing much labour and the accumulation of rejections, not all of which are suitable, even for manufacturing purposes.*

*It should also be recollected that for many articles the range of quality is very wide.*

42 CANNON STREET, E.C., September 29.

AT the commencement of the sale of watergums to-day Messrs. Gray & Sons inquired why the brokers who offered gums for sale at to-day's auctions had not conformed with the terms of the resolution adopted at the last auction: that in future the words "bulked" or "unbulked" shall be added to all parcels of gum arabic offered for public sale. As a matter of fact, only three of the ten brokers who offered gum arabic to-day, viz. Messrs. D. Gray & Sons, Devitt & Hett, and Lambert & Strong, had prepared their catalogue in accordance with the new rule. Messrs. Lewis & Peat objected that the same parcels were frequently offered for sale over and over again. They did not see why each time the words "bulked" or "unbulked" should be added to such perfectly well-known parcels. To this it was replied that old parcels do not always appear at the same place in the catalogues, and ultimately it was agreed that all parcels catalogued from this date should be marked "bulked" or "unbulked."

Business has continued fairly brisk throughout the week. The principal feature in the drug market has been the extraordinary run upon ergot of rye, which, if reports may be trusted, is likely to see famine prices ere long. Shellac keeps very steady, and should the statistical position prove a favourable one, a further advance seems likely. Guinea grains are dearer, and it is said that the supply of gum tragacanth in the first hand has been much reduced. The isinglass sales resulted in an advance on the most important varieties. Among spices, pimento is the only one which tends higher; but most oils are firmer, notably olive, cotton-seed, cod-liver, and turpentine. The price of French lavender will also, it is said, be higher for the season, though the English oil is lower. Turpentine has advanced. The German bromine ring have agreed to advance their quotation, all bromides are therefore quoted higher. Fenugreek seed rules very firm, and may advance. The official price of Howard's quinine has been reduced 1*d.* per oz., but this brand is still, it seems, out of proportion to German quinine. Quicksilver is weaker in the second hand, but there have been a good many orders for China. Carbonate of ammonia, citric acid, and prussiate of potash (yellow) are weak. American peppermint oil has declined rather considerably; spearmint is also lower. Cochineal has declined a little, so have Russian aniseed, Turkish canary seed, and mustard seed. Of spices, ginger, cassia, mace, and nutmegs are cheaper.

ACID (CITRIC) is very quiet and still tends lower. No higher price than 1*s.* 8½*d.* per lb. can be quoted to-day.

ACID (OXALIC).—Business remains very quiet and appears limited to a few casks. The price is still 4*d.* per lb. for casks, and 4½*d.* for 1-cwt kegs. *Sal acetos* quiet at 6*d.* per lb.

ACID (TARTARIC) remains very quiet at last week's quotations of 1*s.* 6½*d.* to 1*s.* 6¾*d.* per lb. for *foreign*, and 1*s.* 7*d.*, nominally, for *English* brands.

ALUM.—There is still a pretty active demand. Loose lump is worth from 5*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.* to 5*l.* 10*s.* per cwt., and ground, in bags, 6*l.* per cwt.

AMMONIA COMPOUNDS.—Carbonate is in a very neglected condition; the nominal price is still 4*d.* per lb., but there is a heavy discount, say 20 per cent., off that figure. *Sal ammoniac* is still held at 34*s.* for first, and 32*s.* for second quality, with a fair demand. *Sulphate* is in good request in London, at 11*l.* 17*s.* 6*d.* for 24 per cent. grey, and 11*l.* 15*s.*

for Beckton sulphate. At Hull 11*l.* 16*s.* 3*d.* is quoted on the spot.

ANISE.—Italian seed is still held at 32*s.* to 35*s.* per cwt. There is a very brisk business doing in Russian seed of the new crop, which offers at the low prices of 22*s.* to 24*s.* per cwt., according to quality. These prices induce many operators to go into the article, and the prospect is considered good, old stocks being pretty well exhausted. For good Spanish seed 45*s.* per cwt. is asked.

ARGOL.—At the auctions on Tuesday 108 bags Cape were offered, but only 23 bags sold; fair but dusty grey at 80*s.* to 82*s.*; pickings, 25*s.* to 40*s.*; dust, 21*s.* 6*d.*

ARSENIC firm at 11*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for powdered white.

BALSAM COPAIBA.—In Hamburg there has been a very lively demand for this article, and a large proportion of the stock in the first hand has been taken out of the market. It appears that a large quantity of heavily adulterated balsam is now being pushed for sale by small lots by certain Hamburg firms, and great caution is advised in making purchases from that quarter.

BLEACHING-POWDER remains firm at 8*l.* 15*s.* per ton.

BROMIDES.—The convention of German manufacturers have agreed to advance their price for bromine, as they think the position of the market here and in America good enough to warrant an advance, but they have not yet determined upon a figure, and their agents decline to quote. In consequence of this decision all bromides are quoted higher. German *Bromide of potassium* can be bought here at 1*s.* 5½*d.* *Howard's* brand is held at 1*s.* 7*d.* per lb.

CANARY SEED.—Heavy shipments of new Turkish seed have been received and pressed for sale in order to avoid the expense of warehousing. A very active business at lower rates has been the result, and at present values range from 41*s.* per cwt. for ordinary up to 46*s.* for fine clean seed. A large proportion of the foreign requirements has been supplied directly from the producing districts, and New York being full up, both for short delivery and late shipments, the prospects of working off our surplus to that port are exceedingly small. Besides Turkey there is no other country yet pressing the sale of its seed. From Holland the first samples of new seed have just come to hand, and again the bulk of the crop seems to consist of the very bold variety, but its condition is doubtful. In consequence of last season's large supplies of such seed, the sale of fine Spanish seed has been checked, and this can now be bought at very low figures, viz., 53*s.* to 54*s.* per 464 lbs. Morocco still quotes 49*s.* to 52*s.*, and Dutch 50*s.* to 54*s.* per 464 lbs.

CARAWAY SEED.—Nominally prices are maintained at the last quotations—Dutch, 28*s.* to 30*s.*; English, 28*s.* to 30*s.* 6*d.* and Russian at 23*s.* to 24*s.* per cwt.; but the feeling in the market is rather weaker, owing to the growing anxiety of Dutch and Russian owners to sell. English seed is by no means plentiful.

CHAMOMILES.—There is very little business doing here. Prices for new Belgian flowers range from 5*l.* 5*s.* to 6*l.* 10*s.* per cwt., according to quality. In France the chamomile crop has been a very small one, but the flowers are generally of fine quality. The prices have not yet been fixed, but they will be high.

CINCHONA.—The supply offered at the weekly auctions was a very small one, chiefly owing to the reduction in the quantity of American bark offered. There is, however, a very heavy stock of these barks in London, and when owners become tired of keeping this only to see it depreciate month by month, it will no doubt tend to further oppress the market. The bulk of Ceylon bark offered (1,250 out of 1,687 packages) was sold; the assortment being a very good one indeed. Most of the Indian and the whole of the 218 packages Java bark were also disposed of; but prices showed no improvement whatever, 2*d.* being still the highest unit figure obtained. The following prices were paid:—

CEYLON BARK.—*Succirubra*: Branch, 2*d.*; stem chips, weak to fine, 2½*d.* to 5*d.*. Spoke Shavings: 2½*d.* to 7*d.*; root, 2½*d.* to 5*d.*. Quill: Broken, 5*d.*; renewed, thin and weak to fine, mostly shavings, 2½*d.* to 1*s.* 1*d.* *Officinalis*: stem chips, 3½*d.* to 9*d.*; spoke shavings, 3½*d.* to 6*d.*; root, 6*d.* to 8½*d.*; renewed, 4*d.* to 1*s.* *Hybrid*: Chips, 2*d.* to 6*d.*; spoke shavings, 5*d.* to 1*s.*; root, 8*d.*; renewed, 6*d.* to 9*d.*



**INDIAN BARK.**—Wynaad *Succirubra*: Weak broken to fine bold druggists' quill in cases, 5*d.* to 11*d.* *Officinalis* (Madras): natural shavings, 2½*d.* to 3½*d.*; renewed, 6*d.*

**JAVA BARK.**—*Ledgeriana*: Siftings, 2½*d.*; twigs, 5½*d.* to 6*d.*; chips, 3*d.* to 1*s.*; spoke shavings, 9*d.* to 1*s.* 5*d.*; root, 7½*d.* to 9*d.* *Succirubra*: Chips, 2*d.* to 3*d.*; root, 3*d.* to 8½*d.*; quill, 7*d.* to 9½*d.* *Officinalis*: Shavings, 8*d.* to 8½*d.*

**SOUTH AMERICAN BARK.**—Bolivian *Ledgeriana*, from the plantations, in bold fine quills, sold at 1*s.* 1*d.*; and some old dusty *Cuprea* at 1*d.* to 2½*d.* per lb.

A recent circular says:—"Notwithstanding that the value of bark has now become so seriously reduced, there is less demand. Some exceptionally rich *Java* (10½ per cent.) at auction on September 13 sold at 1*s.* 7*d.*, but for the common sorts it is impossible to get proportionate offers. The exceptionally low value of quinine appears to be gradually driving the inferior bark out of use, unless the manufacturers can buy it at about 1½*d.* to 1½*d.* per unit. Business in *South American* bark, excepting in comparatively small quantities, is almost a thing of the past; 2,000 to 3,000 bales are occasionally offered, some, as was the case last sales, imported four to five years since; very little of it, however, appears now to get out of importers' hands." The following figures relate to the movement of cinchona in France during the first seven months of the year:—

	1885 Tons	1886 Tons	1887 Tons
Imports to August 31 .. ..	621	849	643
Consumption .. ..	448	448	441
Exports .. ..	215	202	123

**COCHINEAL** tending lower. Holders have been obliged to accept a reduction in order to induce business. *Teneriffe* rosy blacks have changed hands at 1*s.* 0½*d.* to 1*s.* 0¾*d.*; silvers are quoted at 1*s.* 1½*d.*, grey blacks at 1*s.* 3*d.*, and artificial grey blacks at 11½*d.* to 1*s.* per lb.

**CORIANDER.**—Calcutta seed has been sold at 10*s.* per cwt.

**CUMINSEED.**—An advance has taken place in *Maltese* seed, for which 49*s.* per cwt. has been paid. *East Indian* seed is still held at 29*s.* per cwt.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—There is quite a rush for this article. On 'Change to-day it was stated that several parcels had changed hands at 1*s.* 9*d.* to 1*s.* 10*d.* per lb. for *Russian*. At present 2*s.* per lb. is quoted, but we have not yet been able to ascertain whether this has been actually paid. But if the rumours regarding the position of the article are true, there can be little doubt that that price will shortly be exceeded. Hamburg, the principal Continental centre, is said to be quite bare of stock. Our own druggists, with few exceptions, are also without supplies; they have been waiting for the new crop, which is now said to be a complete failure. America, too, has sent over a good many orders, not all of which can be executed at present.

**FENUGREEK SEED** is becoming scarce, while the demand, as is usual this time of the year, grows apace. Holders are very firm at 7*s.* 9*d.* to 8*s.* 6*d.* per cwt.

**GALLS.**—Better prices have been paid on the spot. We hear of sales at 57*s.* per cwt. for *China*. *Japan* held at 53*s.* to 55*s.*, according to quality.

**GAMBIER.**—A firm tone prevails in the market. *Blue*, in whole bales, has been sold at 23*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. reweight, on the spot, and 100 tons for arrival, September-October shipment, at 22*s.* 3*d.* to 22*s.* 4½*d.* per cwt. At the public sales on Tuesday 833 bags cube gambier were offered, 376 of which were sold, partly without reserve, at 33*s.* to 33*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. for sound, and 32*s.* per cwt. for first class sea-damaged. For the remainder an offer of 33*s.* 6*d.* per cwt. was declined, and the parcel bought in at 34*s.* per cwt.

**GINGER.**—At the weekly auctions there was a good supply of *Cochin*, amounting to 985 packages. There was no desire on the part of buyers to operate, except at lower prices, and the bulk of the supply was bought in. Only 120 cases were sold at a slight decline—viz. good bold cut (A) at 85*s.*; medium (B), 55*s.* 6*d.* to 56*s.*; small (C), 35*s.*; sound bold, only partly cut, 38*s.*; and low wormy, 19*s.* per cwt. Brown, unlined *Japan* ginger sold at 14*s.* 6*d.* to 15*s.* per cwt. The small supply of *Jamaica* ginger was all bought in. The following was the statistical position of the article in London on September 24:—

	Present Stock	Stock 1886	Landed in 38 Weeks of		Deliveries in 38 Weeks of	
			1887	1886	1887	1886
West India . . . pkgs.	2,098	3,847	5,216	6,300	5,556	4,557
Cochin and Malabar cases	10,791	5,336	13,506	7,206	6,429	4,238
.. .. bgs.	28,692	14,677	26,264	17,161	12,419	17,109
Bengal .. ..	5,594	3,402	3,543	5,293	4,916	6,182
African .. ..	1,463	1,315	567	1,035	1,437	529

**GLYCERINE.**—The market remains steady, without any alteration in value. 80*l.* per ton is still the nearest manufacturers' price for s.g. 1.260.

**GUINEA GRAINS** have advanced in price owing to shortness of available supply. A few days ago 22*s.* was paid, and now 24*s.* per cwt. is required for good seed.

**GUM ARABIC.**—There has been a steady demand for all classes of gum, and fair sales have been effected at full rates. As regards *East Indian* gums, Aden keeps very firm, only retail sales at extreme rates are reported. Ghatty is from 2*s.* to 3*s.* dearer. In Egyptian gums a few small sales of Turkey sorts have been made from 11*l.* for ordinary to 14*l.* for good fair gum. The market in *Senegal* gum is quiet pending fresh arrivals. Galam is held at 137*s.* 6*d.* to 140*s.* per cwt.

**GUM OLIBANUM.**—A better inquiry has prevailed, although there is no actual business of any importance to report as yet.

**GUM TRAGACANTH.**—The article is decidedly firm, a large export order having recently absorbed much of our supply.

**HEMP SEED** is in steady demand for spot delivery. Stocks are almost as small now as they were in September 1884 and 1882, when prices were double and treble to-day's quotations, but yet there is not much chance of an improvement setting in, so long as forward deliveries are offered below current values. The price quoted for ordinary *Russian* seed on the spot is 22*s.* to 23*s.* per 336 lbs., and for *Dutch* 34*s.*

**HONEY.**—There are reports current that Californian honey is held at an advance of 10*s.* per cwt. on the other side.

**INDIGO.**—Telegrams from Calcutta state the final crop estimate as 128,000 maunds, composed of about 20,500 Lower Bengal, 67,500 Behar, 12,000 Benares, and 28,000 Oude. The total of the previous crop was 131,260, so the present one will show a small comparative deficiency. The London market shows no alteration. Six chests salvage, ex steamer *Tasmania*, were sold by public sale on Tuesday, without reserve, at 6½*d.* to 10½*d.* per lb.

**INSECT FLOWERS.**—There is no alteration in price in the Dalmatian flowers and powder. The market is very firm, but the season is over now, and it will not seriously re-commence again until, in March next, the summer orders come in.

**IODINE** and *Iodides* unchanged.

**ISINGLASS.**—The periodical auctions were held on Tuesday, and the quantity offered was a fair one, consisting of 318 packages or 60,155 lbs. The bulk of the supply consisted of *Penang* isinglass, which met a very good demand, prices being steady for cake and tongue, and 2*d.* per lb. higher for leaf. *Bombay* tongue and cake were also very firm and in some instances slightly dearer. *Saigon* and *Brazil* sold well, except fine *Pará* lump, which was slightly easier.

**LEAD (ACETATE).**—The report that German manufacturers had advanced their price to 30*s.* proves to be premature, for we hear from Hamburg that makers in Germany still maintain their price at 26*s.* 6*d.* per cwt., while some second-hand parcels are even offering a shade below that figure. In London 29*s.* per cwt. is asked for *English* white, while brown to grey offer at from 21*s.* to 24*s.* per cwt., and best white foreign is quoted at 17*s.* per cwt.

**MORPHIA**, firm at 7*s.* 6*d.* per oz. from the makers.

**MUSTARD SEED.**—Prices have declined considerably in consequence of the influx of large quantities of seed from abroad, while the home crop also is plentiful. The demand is not at all equal to the supply, and good *white* seed may now be had at 8*s.* to 10*s.* 6*d.* per bushel.



MYRABOLANES.—The following prices have been paid this week:—Upper Godavery, fine pale, 7s. 3d.; Bengal, good pale, 6s. 6d.; Jubbulpore, good heavy (salvage ex *Tasmania*), at 6s. 6d. per cwt.

OIL (COCOANUT).—On the spot *Cochin* still rules at 31l. to 32l. according to quality; white *Ceylon* is held at 23l. 15s.; and *Mauritius* at 25l. 15s. to 26l.

OIL (COD-LIVER).—Some holders of the best non-congealing oil still ask 4s. 6d. per gallon, and will probably be able to realise that price later on. Other parcels are offering at lower rates.

OIL (COTTON-SEED) has advanced somewhat, and is now quoted as follows:—On the spot *Crude*, 19l. 10s.; *Refined*, 21l. 10s. to 24l.; November-April, 19l. Hull is also dearer, spot, casks, 20l. 17s. 6d.; October-November, 20l. 10s.; November-April, 18l. *Crude*, spot, 18l.; November-April, 15l. 15l. to 16l.

OIL (LINSEED) is lower in value, and obtainable on the spot, pipes, waterside, 19l. 15s. to 19l. 17s. 6d.; land, 20l.; barrels, 20l. 2s. 6d.; October, 20l.; October-December, 20l.; January-April, 20l. Hull also lower. Spot: Casks, 19l. 10s. to 19l. 12s. 6d.; barrels, 19l. 15s.; October, 19l. 12s. 6d.; October-December, 19l. 5s.; January-April, 19l. 5s.

OIL (OLIVE).—The market is advancing, and very little is now offering, owners preferring to hold back in the hope of realising better rates later on. For *Mogadore* oil 32l. 10s. is now required. *Spanish* is held at 37l. nominally, and *Messina* oil at 35l.

OIL (PALM) is unchanged at 22l. for fine *Lagos*.

OIL (PETROLEUM) remains quiet but steady at 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d. to 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. for *American* on the spot, 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub>d. to 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. for October-December, and 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. for January-April. *Russian* oil on the spot, according to quality, from 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>16</sub>d. to 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. The tendency of prices during the past few weeks has been decidedly upward, notwithstanding the increased actual and prospective importations of Russian oil. The American crude market has experienced some considerable fluctuations. After advancing from 62 cents at the end of August, to as high as 75 cents per barrel on the 13th inst., certificates declined to as low as 62 cents by 15th inst. Since then another upward movement has taken place, and the crude market closed on September 23 at 67<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cents per barrel. There does not appear to have been any reason for this activity in the market for certificates other than the falling off in production. This may suit speculative movements, but it is not of really important moment, as it is well known that production is artificially kept down to enable prices to be maintained on a remunerative basis, and present large stocks to be reduced. As might be expected in face of an excited market for crude, American refined oil has exhibited an upward tendency, and now stands in the equivalent of <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per gallon above the lowest point touched this season. There is this difference, however, between the crude and refined oil markets, that whereas the former has been subject to violent fluctuations, the latter, as far as the favourite brands are concerned, has all along substantially maintained the improvement made last month. The future course of prices in our market is more dependent at present upon local influences than upon the primary markets. The general anxiety of importers to sell has kept our market in a somewhat depressed state since the opening of the season, and the improvement of the past few weeks can hardly be said to have entirely drawn the market from its depressed condition. Its present firmness, however, maintained steadily as it now has been for some time, points to a still greater improvement as the season advances, and bearing in mind the fact that prices last season were maintained for nearly four months at an advance of 1d. per gallon, there would appear to be much stronger probability of higher prices than the contrary.

OIL (RAPE SEED) remains firm. English *brown*, on the spot, 24l.; September, 23l. 15s. October-December, 23l. 15s.; January-April, 23l. 15s. English *refined*, on the spot, 25l. 5s. to 25l. 10s.

OIL (TURPENTINE) has improved to 25s. for *American* spirit on the spot, 25s. 3d. for September-December, and 26s. for January-April.

OILS (ESSENTIAL).—*Star anise* without much business, at

7s. 3d. per lb. *Cassia* also quiet and weak, at 2s. 8d. per lb. Oil of *Cloves*, English, is held at 6s. 3d. per lb. Italian oils are firm, with inquiries for *Lemon*, but the cholera epidemic prevailing in Sicily is interfering with business. The English *Lavender* crop, which has been a very abundant one, has now been all distilled. The low prices prevailing—38s. per lb. will buy the finest oil—have caused a very brisk demand, and many buyers have seized the occasion to lay in a heavy stock. The French lavender crop has now been all collected, except in a few outlying districts. The yield this year is good, being slightly larger than last season's, notwithstanding which prices have advanced somewhat, as there is nothing left of the old stock. Only an abundant yield could have secured a reduction in the price of the article. French oil of *Lavender* was previously quoted at 6s. to 6s. 6d. per lb. for good to fine, but it is now said that the new crop will be from 6d. to 9d. per lb. dearer. Oil of *Peppermint*, H. G. Hotchkiss, has been sold on the spot, it is said, at 12s. 6d. per lb. An order for 100 cases from America, limited 6d. per lb. under the London price, is said to have been refused. The distilling of the Mitcham oil is now in full progress. The growers at Mitcham who asked 29s. per lb. for their oil at the commencement of the season now accept 28s. per lb. for the best quality. This is the lowest quotation now prevailing for pure Mitcham oil. *Spearmint* is declining in value and will be very cheap indeed this season.

OPIUM.—It is stated that one-half of the Dutch Government order has been placed at Smyrna at full rates, and that the remaining 200 cases will be allotted to-day. From Smyrna we hear that the market there is still very firm, and, although few sales are made, more money is required for each successive lot sold.

The arrivals up to 15th September were 342 baskets, against 2,543 baskets at the corresponding date of 1886. The second caravans of the season arrived at Smyrna from Karahissar and Akshair about the middle of September. They only brought 9 cases of opium, against 287 cases by the corresponding caravans of the previous year. The arrivals by the first caravans were 15 cases this year, and 609 in 1886. It is considered that the present Smyrna quotations are much lower than the failure of the crop would warrant, and it is also pointed out that the largest business of the year generally takes place in October and November. Letters from the interior of Asia Minor express a growing fear that the winter sowings will be a failure, owing to the hardness of the soil and the continued heat.

POTASH COMPOUNDS.—*Bisulphate* is held at 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per lb. *Chlorate* is in very small supply; available lots are held very firmly at 6d. per lb. *Yellow Prussiate* is less firm and may be had at 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per lb. now.

QUICKSILVER.—The importers' price remains unaltered at 7l. 12s. 6d., but second-hand holders offer at somewhat lower rates than last week, 7l. 9s. being now quoted by them.

QUILLAYA BARK is selling in a small way at 14l. 15s.

QUININE.—*Howard's* official price was reduced 1d. per oz before the weekly bark sales. This brand is now quoted by the makers at 2s. 3d. per oz. for vials, and 2s. 1d. for bulk. *Pelletier's* quinine in first hand, 2s. 3d. for vials and 2s. 1d. for bulk; while *German* quinine in bulk is offered by the makers at 1s. 6<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. per oz. The demand is reported to have shown some improvement this week. At the recent conference of American wholesale druggists the belief was expressed that, with the prevailing tendency in the commercial policy of the German Government, a subsidy may be extended to German quinine makers, as well as other manufacturers. It has been rumoured that the Italian Government advanced the bounty to the Milan factory from 4f. to 10f. per kilo., or from about 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. to 2<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>d. per oz. If this is true the secret has been carefully kept, for this is the first time that anyone has heard of any bounty whatever.

SACCHARINE.—The London agents for the Magdeburg saccharine works are now prepared to execute orders for the new sweetening substance. They do not sell less quantities than 1 lb, and the price ranges from 63s. for 1-lb. lots to 52s. per lb. for quantities of 20 lbs. or more. These prices are net cash in London, and delivery can take place at once or in a very few days. The agents in London control the patents for the United Kingdom, and for Spain and Portugal. Buyers



in these countries can only obtain saccharine from them or through wholesale houses who have bought from them.

**SAFFRON.**—The market is gradually growing firmer, but nothing is yet known with certainty regarding the coming crop.

**SALTPETRE.**—Refined English crystals in barrels are quoted at 20s. 9d., and ditto in kegs at 21s. 9d. per cwt.

**SENEGA.**—In America prices are advancing, and it is probable that higher rates will prevail during the winter. It is difficult to arrive even approximately at the consumption of this root, but it seems probable that its use is increasing, especially in Europe. The Southern root, which in France and Germany used to be considered the best, has been almost driven from the market by that from the North West, owing to the excellent quality, careful washing, drying, and packing of the latter. Reports from the North-Western States speak of only small quantities coming in, so that it is probable the price has at last reached an unprofitable point for the collectors. Manitoba last year sent large quantities of sound, but coarse and thick chumpy roots, at a lower price than the Minnesota article. As nothing has been heard of supplies from Canada this year, it is thought they have been shipped to the producing parts of the States, to appear afterwards as Minnesota root on the New York market.

**SHELLAC.**—The market this week opened steadily, and private sales of *first orange* lac at 62s. spot; fair *second orange* at 48s. spot; and TN *second orange* for arrival at 48s. c.i.f. are reported. At the weekly auctions, *garnet* lac declined about 6d. per lb. all round, but it should not be forgotten that the parcels offered did not bear any date of import, and had probably been lying here for several years, which cannot have improved the quality. Only 204 cases were catalogued for sale, and of this number 25 were announced to have been privately disposed of. Nearly the entire supply consisted of *garnet* lac, which sold at 42s. 6d. for good free AC, 40s. to 40s. 6d. for shivery AC, and 41s. for unworked BCB (49 cases in one lot). No *orange* lac was offered at the auctions. Since the auctions, sales are reported at steady rates, viz.: Spot, TN *second orange* 48s. to 49s.; *garnet* AC, 42s. cash; button, dark and thin, 40s. to 42s. For arrival, 100 chests TN *second orange*, October-December, 48s.; and 200 chests EG good ditto at about 50s. c.i.f. The publication of the monthly statistics to-morrow is looked forward to with great interest. The result is expected to show a considerable diminution in our stock. *Fine orange* marks are inquired for on the spot. To-day's cables from Calcutta report the market higher there. T.N. standard *second orange* cannot, it is said, be laid down here under 50s. c.i.f.

**SODA COMPOUNDS.**—Ash still rules quiet at 1½d. per degree, landed. *Bicarbonate* is quoted at 6l. 12s. 6d. per ton, ex warehouse. *Caustic* at 7l. 5s. for cream, and 7l. 10s. for white 60 per cent. *Crystals* at 2l. 12s. 6d. in London, and 2l. 5s. 6d. on the Tyne. *Nitrate* on the spot is firm at 9l. 7s. 6d. to 9l. 10s. per ton.

**SOY.**—A further advance has taken place, 2s. per gallon having been paid for good *China*. There is very little offering.

**SPICES (VARIOUS).**—*Arrowroot* remains neglected and very cheap. Bermuda was bought in at 1s. 4d. per lb., but less would be taken. *Cayenne pepper* is worth 1s. 3d. per lb. for good Natal. *Cassia buds* sold at auction at 45s. per cwt.; our stock is only 1,269 cases, against 2,243 in 1886. The deliveries this year have not been large, but the arrivals have stopped altogether. *Cassia lignea* is lower, broken having sold at 16s. 6d. per cwt. Our stock is excessive (104,843 cases), and no improvement can be looked for. *Chillies*, steady, at 27s. per cwt. for good Zanzibar. At the auctions there was little demand for *Cloves*, fine bright Zanzibar sold up to 11½d. per lb., and good Penang (without reserve) at 1s. 1d. per lb. Good *Mace* is cheaper, but common varieties show no decline. Fine bright pale Penang sold at 2s. 10d. per lb. *Nutmegs*, plentiful and cheaper. At the auction the following prices were paid:—Penang, 67s at 3s. 7d.; 68s at 3s. 5d. to 3s. 6d.; 83s at 2s. 9d.; 85s at 2s. 7d.; 114s at 2s. 3d.; 115s at 2s. 2d.; shrivelled 11d. to 1s. 1d. per lb. Our stock is now 4,366 cases, against 2,115 last year, and the arrivals so far are much in excess of the demand. *Pepper*, fairly steady, but rather

quiet. Sales have been made of black Atcheen (10½ per cent. dust), at 6½d.; fine black Tringanu at 8½d. to 8½d.; white Penang, mixed with stones, at 10½d.; and fair ditto at 10½d. per lb. *Pimento*, firm, at 2½d. to 2½d. per lb. for fair to good bright.

**SULPHUR.**—The advance in Sicily has thus far exercised very little effect upon our market. *Flowers* are still obtainable at 9s. to 9s. 6d. per cwt., and *roll* at 8s. to 8s. 6d. per cwt.

**TURMERIC** remains very cheap and in abundant supply. *Madras*, good hard bright yellow finger, sold at 8s. 6d.; *Cochin*, good bright split bulbs, at 6s. 3d. per cwt.

**VANILLA.**—Reports from Réunion dated July 30 state that a few lots of the new crop had just been placed on the market, but the quantity was as yet too small to establish market quotations. It has been stated repeatedly that the production of vanilla in Mexico was on the decline, but the imports of *Mexican* beans into the United States, now by far the largest customers for this variety, do not bear out these statements. The imports rose from 97,095 lbs. in 1885 to 99,529 lbs. in 1886, and 137,479 in 1887.

**WAX (JAPAN).**—Privately 52s. per cwt. has been paid for fair pale squares. The price now asked is from 54s. to 55s. per cwt. according to quality.

## THE AMERICAN MARKETS.

NEW YORK, September 16.

**B**USINESS is remarkably good, and so far as concerns the drug trade, in excess of that of the same period last year. There is a tendency towards higher rates developing in a number of staple articles, and should the present active demand keep up, we may see a sudden rise in some of them.

The prices sterling (in parentheses) are what the different articles would cost delivered in London, all market allowances, discounts, &c., being taken into account. Importers can therefore see at a glance the course of this market compared with their own.

**ACID (CARBOLIC).**—The active inquiry of a month ago has kept up, and prices still rule very high, viz. 35c., or 1s. 5½d. per lb. in 1-lb. bottles.

**ACID (CITRIC)** is in good demand at 50c., or equal to 1s. 9d. (5 per cent.) It is reported there will soon be a second factory commenced for turning out this article; the works will be in Newark, N. J., and under German control.

**BALSAMS.**—A decided advance in *Copaiba* has set in. Pará is quoted 42c. (1s. 10½d.), Maranhão same price, and Central American 40c. (1s. 9½d.). Stocks are very light, the arrivals are not sufficient to supply the demand, and as, in spite of pressing applications to the primary markets, none is reported on the way, purchases may before long have to be made in Europe. *Peru* is greatly neglected—there is no life in the article; a small lot in first hands could probably be bought at \$1.00 (4s. 6d.). *Tolu* has been very active, and has experienced a considerable consumptive demand. The direct imports keep fully equal to those of former years, but yet they are not sufficient for our requirements. This week large purchases were made in Europe for American account; sales took place at 40c. (1s. 9½d.), but now 45c. is being asked. *Canada* is in fair request, especially for export; the crop being all marketed, prices are not likely to go lower. Prime bright in barrels is quoted 34c. (1s. 6½d.).

**BARKS.**—Fine bright yellow *Maraicao* would meet a good demand here. *Angostura* is in large supply, but very slow of sale at 12c. (7d.), probably less for an original invoice. *Condurango* is quoted 75c. (3s. 6d.) in retail lots. *Jamaica Dogwood* has arrived in quantity, and is lower, 25c. (1s. 2d.). *Simaruba.*—The parcel referred to in a recent report has been disposed of; the market is 14c. (8½d.).

**ERGOT.**—Stocks in the States are believed to be small; there are a number of inquiries in the market, and it is not unlikely that an advance will soon be established. The market is 30c. (1s. 4½d.) for prime old Spanish.

**GUARANA** is quite neglected, ample stocks and no transactions.



**GUM GUAIAIACUM.**—Large arrivals of a common drossy variety in flour-barrels are offering at 12c. (7d.) without finding a buyer.

**LEAVES.**—*Buchu* have returned to the old price; it is thought that, owing to the failure in the "corner" of last spring, the stock here is very large. *Coca* are in light supply, especially prime *Huanoco*. *Damiana*.—No good green offering.

**MENTHOL.**—Japanese crystals are selling in a small way at \$1.50, or, taking the 25 per cent. duty into account, at equal to 4s. 6d. per lb. Nothing is now heard of the menthol from American oil.

**OIL OF PEPPERMINT.**—There is no change in the position; the active inquiry for H. G. Hotchkiss brand keeps up, but bulk oil is neglected. In Wayne County the growers are holding their oil for better times; only weedy and inferior quality is offered for sale there at low prices. Pure oil, free from weeds, is worth \$2.50 (11s.).

**QUININE.**—The large consumptive demand goes on, and at the time of writing there is a firmer tone noticeable in the market. It is thought that weak second-hand holders are cleared out, and that, rock bottom having been struck, a healthy reaction is about to set in. The wish is probably father to the thought, and, as has frequently occurred of late, in place of going up, it may go the other way. The lowest sale reported was 35c. (1s. 6½d., 5 per cent.) for a prime German brand in 100-oz. tins; this was for a round lot.

**ROOTS.**—*Golden seal* is scarce at 20c. (11d.). *Jalap.*—Nothing has been done; the lot in the hands of the banks has not been disposed of. Other stocks are getting very small. *Senega* is likely to be very scarce and dear; this market is quite bare of supplies, and several lots sold some time ago for export are not delivered. *Serpentaria* is in ample supply at 20c. (11d.).

**SARSAPARILLA.**—Very low prices are ruling here for *Mexican* root, and will probably continue. The bankrupt firm's stock of 800 bales is still unsold; large shipments are said to be on the way. Hamburg has 1,200 and Havre 850 bales, so that, even without any arrivals from Mexico, there is a visible supply enough for a year's consumption.

**TONQUIN BEANS.**—The firm that controls the supply and stock of *Angostura* quotes \$1.25, less 2 per cent. (5s. 4d.), for 2,000-lbs. lots—less quantity they will not sell. The present stock is about 100 tons.

### THE GERMAN MARKET.

HAMBURG, September 27.

THE last week has been quite as dull as any during the past months, and the present indications do not in any way favour the hope of an increase in business for the near future. Buyers confine their purchases to the smallest limits consistent with their requirements. With the exception of balsam copaiba, tolu, ergot of rye, and honey, the prices remain at about previous quotations.

The prices in this column are given in marks (11½d.) per 100 kilos., or per kilo. (1 kilo. = 2 lb. 3½ oz.; 50 kilos. = 1 cwt.). The prices in parentheses show the parity in London.

**AGAR-AGAR** has been in good request, and the supply in first hand found buyers at full rates.

**ALOES**—*Cape* without alteration; the *Curaçao* variety is quite neglected. About 400 cases partly drossy liver, partly of ordinary quality, are offered at 50m. to 55m. (22s. to 25s.).

**BALSAMS.**—In *Copaiba* a speculative business has been done, and all parcels in first hand are sold at full prices; 3.70m. (1s. 7d.) may now be quoted. *Tolu* also attracts attention, and prices advanced to 3.25m. (1s. 4d.). *Peruvian* remains very quiet, and prices are rather weaker.

**BARKS.**—Fine *Angostura* unchanged; a lot of ordinary bark was offered at 40m. (18s.). *Cinchona*.—Porto Cabello remains very scarce, as much as 125m. to 130m. (6d. to 6½d.) being asked for good quality; 125 bales partly dark bark found buyers. In *Condurango* there is no alteration in value. The scarcity continues and good bark is firmly held at 10m. (4s. 6d.). In *Quillaia* there is little change; holders still ask 30m. to 30½m. (13s. 6d.).

**BORAX (REFINED).**—Unchanged at last week's quotations new contracts at reduced prices are still being made with second-hand holders.

**CAMPHOR (REFINED).**—No business; quotations still remain at 177m. to 180m.

**ERGOT OF RYE.**—American orders have cleared the market, and no old grain is now offered. As regards the new crop nothing has yet transpired.

**HONEY** is quoted higher; 36m. to 40m. was paid for fair *Chilian*.

**LEAVES.**—*Jaborandi* in first hand have been bought up, and prices are very firm. *Matico* are becoming very scarce; no stock exists on the market.

**OILS (ESSENTIAL).**—*Star Anise* is in small supply, and 16m. (2s. 6d.) has been paid for genuine quality. *Cassia* remains neglected. *Peppermint*, H. G. Hotchkiss brand, has declined about 1½m. per English lb., 12m. and less having been accepted. Japan oil advanced to 9m. to 9½m.—still a very low price.

**WAX (VEGETABLE).**—A fair business is being done in this article, and another small advance was reported from Japan to-day, prime whitish squares being now quoted at 102m. (46s.).

### TRADE-MARKS APPLIED FOR.

THE *Trade Marks Journal* publishes the following notice:—"Any person who has good grounds for objection to the registration of any of the following marks may, within two months of the date of this journal, give notice in duplicate at the Patent Office, in the form 'J,' in the second schedule to the Trade Marks Rules, 1883, of opposition to such registration." The address of the Patent Office is Southampton Buildings, London, W.C.

From the "*Trade Marks Journal*," September 28, 1887.

"**PHOSPHATIC CREAM**," and drawings of two trees in form of letter G; for a medicinal preparation. By G. H. Gregory and W. A. Wrenn (trading as Gregory & Wrenn) chemists, Taunton. 61,623.

"**ROBINSON'S PATENT GROATS**," and "Robinson's Patent Barley," and other wording, on labels; for prepared groats and prepared barley. By W. J. Bellville (trading as Keen, Robinson & Bellville), 6 Garlick Hill, E.C. 61,854-5.

"**PULMO FABA, INDIAN BEANS**," and other wording, on label; for seeds used as medicine. By G. A. Ledebor & Co. (trading as The Pulmo Faba Company), 72 Mark Lane, E.C. 62,942.

"**ELIXIR ANTI-NEURALGIQUE**," on design of figures; for an inhalant. By D. F. Hamlink, gentleman, 1706 Nineteenth Street, Washington, D.C., U.S.A. 63,417.

"**JAPAN KANANGA WATER**," other wording, on label, and Japanese designs [five distinct labels]; for a perfume. By J. B. F. Rigaud (trading as Rigaud & Cie.), 8 Rue Vivienne, Paris. 63,530.

"**MELLIN'S FOOD FOR INFANTS AND INVALIDS**," for a medicated food. By G. Mellin, 16 Tichborne Street, Regent Street, W. 63,589.

"**TADDINGTON HONEY**," and figure of a bee; for honey. By The Taddington Orchard Company (Limited), Taddington, Winchcombe, Cheltenham. 63,734.

"**GAMGEE'S FLUID**," for a fluid disinfectant. By The New Chloralum Company (Limited), Wilmer Gardens, Kingsland Road, E. 63,798.

"**JELLOIDS FACILIS DESCENSUS, YE OYSTER**," and figure of an oyster; for chemical substances. By F. W. Warrick, pharmaceutical chemist, Old Swan Lane, E.C. 64,207.

"**PHILLIP JAMIESON'S CROWN EMBROCATION**," for embrocation for horses and cattle. By P. Jamieson, 9 Free-land's Road, Bromley, Kent. 64,497.





### Memoranda for Correspondents.

*Always send your proper name and address: we do not publish them unless you wish.*

*Write on one side of the paper only; write early; and devote a separate sheet of paper to each query if you ask more than one, or if you are writing about other matters at the same time.*

*If you send us newspapers, please mark what you wish us to read.*

*Ask us anything of pharmaceutical interest: we shall do our best to reply.*

*Before writing for formulae consult the last volume, if you have it.*

*Letters, queries, &c., not noticed in this issue will, if possible, be attended to next week.*

### The Irish Pharmacy Act.

*Aspirant* (32/166) adds a lengthy communication to those already published. We can only print a few extracts from his letter:—

There cannot be any doubt, he says, in the mind of any unprejudiced person, acquainted with the subject, of the evident desire on the part of those who swayed the Council to exclude from their examinations the older druggists, their assistants, and apprentices.

Under these circumstances, what were we to do who had been put to business under the old druggists? Were we to have our indentures broken after we had served a portion of our apprenticeship? Or were we to complete our apprenticeship and then learn that we were henceforth and for ever incapacitated from making use of that knowledge we had acquired, and could not engage in business on our own responsibility?

Mr. Downes contends that the Society is not entitled to require either service or curriculum. I do not contend, but I can see, the great boon that would be conferred upon those who are similarly situated to myself, if that were so. I believe that the Society would, as Mr. Downes says, be in a better position, if they could say, "If you are as competent as you think, we hold our examinations every three months—come up and pass."

In conclusion I shall just point out that at the last meeting of the British Medical Association in Dublin, it was stated that there will be an effort made to introduce into the new Medical Act a clause to prevent pharmacists prescribing; and recently the British Dental Association talked of prohibiting any person but an L.D.S. from extracting teeth.

If in Ireland the Medical Society were as stringent on the pharmacists as the latter are upon the chemists and druggists, they would be rather severely pressed.

SIR,—Referring to letters in past issues of your journal signed "Old Chemist and Druggist," on the recent prosecutions by the Pharmaceutical Society, I cannot but doubt the *nom de plume* being a correct one, as it no doubt is meant to imply that the writer was in business at the passing of the Act, and will mislead your readers so far as to think that it is the "Old Chemist and Druggist" who is being prosecuted, when such is not the case. It is not likely a chemist and druggist who was such at the passing of the Act will hold views contrary to his own personal interest, as well as his class of the trade generally; for do not these prosecutions benefit the "Old Chemist and Druggist" equally with the pharmaceutical chemist, and I might say more so, as it is with the "Old Chemist and Druggist" the law-breakers are in competition—assuming their legitimate title, and doing their class of business, when not going in to any great extent for prescription compounding, which would then be competing with the pharmaceutical chemist. The letter of "Old Chemist and Druggist" in last week's journal evincing such interest in the apprentice of twelve years ago, arouses grave suspicion that he also was only an apprentice in or about that time, and not the time-honoured gentleman he would

wish us to think him; and if I am right in my assumption he has only himself to blame, as 75 per cent. of those who passed their examination during the two years after the Act was passed were hard-working apprentices to the "Old Chemist and Druggist," and not like the gentleman who, after presenting himself for examination for the fourth time failed, and wrote to the Council saying he thought he was entitled to his licence after having gone to the trouble to go up so often.

And referring to letter of "Wholesale Druggist" in same issue, we here can fully appreciate his real interest in the would-be chemist and druggist; and I venture to say that he also, as well as his "wholesale gentleman" friend, would give 50% if he thought the point could be carried, as it would not be to his interest or that of his "wholesale gentlemen" friends if the class now being prosecuted were put out of existence. I note "Wholesale Druggist" was in court, presumably by virtue of a summons also. Pity he had not the qualification to take the vacant seat on the other side of the chairman, and the hench would then have been complete.

A BELFAST PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST.

SIR,—I do not agree with views which you have on more than one occasion indicated, but I incline to the belief that if you were on the spot and knew the circumstances you would not continue to hold such views. In pharmacy, as in every other Irish question, it is impossible for an outsider to arrive at a correct appreciation of the situation except upon a careful consideration of both sides. To judge of the position of chemists and druggists in Ireland by that of those holding the same title in the neighbouring island is utterly misleading, and is, I believe, at the root of much of the misapprehension which exists with regard to the subject.

In England anyone who is entitled to sell medicines and call himself a chemist and druggist or druggist, can dispense prescriptions, but in Ireland only pharmaceutical chemists and apothecaries can dispense. The Irish Pharmacy Act gave power to admit a class of chemists and druggists other than those passing the examination as pharmaceutical chemists, but it gave power at the same time to the Council to say that there should be only one class—that of pharmaceutical chemists—and it secured that those in business as chemists and druggists should have their status and privileges guaranteed to them. The object of the Council in perpetuating only one class was understood to be that those who should afterwards undertake the sale of medicines should also be able to compound prescriptions. This object was in a fair way of being gradually accomplished. Year by year new establishments have been opened for dispensing in towns where formerly there were only the apothecaries' or surgeons' places available, and had the principle been allowed free legal development, the "survival of the fittest" would have triumphed in the adequate provision for the wants of the country in respect of drug supply.

The Pharmaceutical Society does not comprise the licentiates, but only those who chose to pay 1*l.* 1*s.* per annum, and are elected, so that most of the licentiates are outside the constituency of the Council. The Council some time ago instituted proceedings in remote country places against chemists for breaches of the Act in respect of illegal dispensing, but these prosecutions, although successful, were very costly, and were looked upon as somewhat invidious as more and greater offenders were under the very noses of the Council, and they were not continued. Immunity from prosecution emboldened the transgressors, until in such places as Belfast and Dublin the number of "medical sheheeners" was understood to be greater than that of licensed traders. As has been pointed out, the Irish chemist never had the right to dispense, and any vested interest he may have acquired must have been obtained illegally, and could not be pleaded against his being brought to book at any time.

In the proceedings here before the resident magistrate—one of the most experienced and sagacious on the Irish Bench—a great confusion seems to have existed. The propriety of the action of the Council in decreeing that there should be only one class seems to have been mixed up with the legality of that step; the greater or less hardship inflicted on unqualified drug-sellers confused with the express letter and word of the statute, and the jurisdiction of the Court, which is simply to interpret and administer the law,



and not to criticise it, appears to have been assumed to cover the alteration and whittling it down to suit the *ex-post-facto* requirements of transgressors. In my opinion the magistrate has not swerved from the purely judicial functions of his office. He first of all convicted for illegal dispensing, and on the same day, and in respect of the same offender, stated that if counsel for the prosecution could show him that by law there was only one register, he would convict in respect of the sale of poison. The second trial failed to come off on the stated day by reason of the absence of the witness who made the purchases. Next trial the magistrate held that there was only one register, and the case only broke down because he held that the prosecution should have proved the safe custody of the poison purchased from time of purchase till analysed. This was a novel point, and it is open to question whether it was not importing into the Pharmacy Act the precaution specified and statutory in the Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Be this as it may, it gave the defender that benefit which the merciful administration of our laws always accords to him on any dubious point.

I trust it has been made clear that as the Irish Pharmacy Act now stands the only persons entitled to dispense prescriptions are apothecaries and pharmaceutical chemists, and that the only persons entitled to sell poisons are these persons and such chemists and druggists as were in business in 1875, when the Act came into force. As to the hardship of it, a sentimental whine may be indulged in, but let it be asked of any of the persons now clamouring, what was their interpretation of the Act at the time it was passed, and it will be found that the answer will generally be that no new druggist could commence business unless he were a pharmaceutical chemist. I think you will be ready to admit, sir, that the law is as I have stated it, and I think you will look in vain for the "loyalty"—that favourite Ulster word by which the conjuring is done here—of those who openly and flagrantly defy a law passed for the security of the health and lives of those who have a right to that protection.

Regarding the letter of the "Old Chemist and Druggist," it may be pointed out that only the sale of poisons and the assumption of the title of "Chemist" or "Druggist" are restricted; any drug not a scheduled poison may be sold by anyone, whether he knows anything of its properties or not.

A "Wholesale Druggist" states that a "Wholesale Gentleman" has "intimated that he is prepared to spend 50*l.* if called upon, in our defence." There is no harm in that; the law is clear as it stands, and if it is to be disregarded merely because some rich people wish it to be so, let us understand it. I am not sure that I correctly apprehend the following:—"The conduct of the Council in framing the Act of 1875 and inserting a clause that was not read by a dozen intelligent men in Ireland, if the Council thought proper to create a body of chemists and druggists, was a monstrosity." If I understand history, the Council did not frame the Act of 1875; the Act of 1875 framed the Council. The idea of a "commutation fund" has more merit in respect of originality than of practicability. As to the respectability, importance, and loyalty of the chemists and druggists in business at the time the Act was passed, it may be satisfactory for this "Wholesale Druggist" and his friend the "Wholesale Gentleman" to be informed that even had they been less exemplary in these important respects, they were specifically and in as many words exempted from interference in the exercise of all the privileges they had before the Act passed.

ANOTHER PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMIST. (167/20.)  
Belfast, September 24.

[Our position is not quite correctly indicated in this letter. No one doubts that the Irish Pharmaceutical Council had legal power to decide whether they would have one grade of pharmacists or two. They decided on one only, and their policy has resulted in failure. They have utterly failed to supply Ireland with pharmacists, and in 1884 the Council acknowledged their initial mistake by drafting a Bill for the purpose of creating a second grade. Mr. Brunner then stated that, disregarding the chief towns, there were some forty or fifty pharmaceutical chemists to supply the wants of over 200 towns in Ireland with a population of 1,000 to 2,500. Our correspondent seems to be quite contented to believe that things will come all right in a century or two. Meanwhile, it is not surprising that other men should meet the demand which the Society has so conspicuously failed to satisfy; and

when the Society or its licentiates prosecute these men and get defeated on a technical point, we confess we are not overwhelmed with sorrow.

There is another point which is particularly mentioned in the letter of a "Belfast Pharmaceutical Chemist" which needs attention. It seems to be assumed that chemists and druggists in business before 1875 are in a better position than those who have sprung up since, through the action of the 31st clause. This clause, however, it would appear, is of no effect as far as it relates to chemists and druggists if read in conjunction with the 19th section. So that all chemists and druggists in Ireland are in the same boat.—*Ed. C. & D.*]

SIR,—As I happened to be in Belfast serving my apprenticeship when the Irish Pharmacy Act came into operation in 1875, I remember something of "the heartache and the thousand natural pangs" that shook many a "chemist and druggist's" soul. The gentleman with whom I served my time called himself a chemist and druggist, an oil and colourman, and a drysalter. From some considerable experience of English pharmacies I can say that during the three years with my preceptor I received as fair a knowledge of drugs as is to be acquired in the average British pharmacy. I did not see many prescriptions, it is true, but my governor used to dispense for his friends, and considering that I left my apprenticeship and went to an apothecary who did a purely dispensing business, and there acquired the reputation of being well up to my work, the deduction is obvious that many an existent "chemist and druggist" might have become registered as a dispenser of poisons without any danger to the State.

Whether the Irish apothecaries or the gentlemen who had the administration of the Irish Pharmacy Act were to blame I will not attempt to determine, but it is now evidently a case of "the biters bit." I say, serve the biters "jolly well right."

I am, sir, yours, &c.,

AN A. P. S. OF GREAT BRITAIN.

London, September 28.

SIR,—On looking over your journal of last week, I was well pleased to find that "A Belfast Pharmaceutical Chemist" had received his deserts at your hands, and indeed I cannot keep from letting him know the same.

In his remarks from the beginning he has displayed very bad taste indeed, both in your journal and out of it. One would almost think he had lost his reasoning powers entirely, and I cannot for the life of me get to know why so many respectable traders should allow it to go forth that they are connected with such a state of affairs. I for one, sir, protest against the same.

He talks about instituting proceedings against your journal. Why, sir, just last week, when talking to a legal friend of mine, I came to hear that legal proceedings are shortly to be instituted against himself for some malignant remarks passed concerning respectable traders. Perhaps this may teach him the desirability of being a little milder in the future.

I am, yours,

Belfast, Sept. 28. AN OLD APOTHECARY. (167/68.)

#### Medicine Stamp Duty.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Mr. E. Warrell, does not go far enough in the reduction of the patent medicine stamp duty. We are living in times when sixpence is looked at, therefore we want a farthing, or at most a halfpenny, stamp for sixpenny articles. We think a halfpenny should cover the one shilling articles, and a penny up to two shillings, with an increase of one halfpenny for every additional shilling. The present jump from 1*s.* 1½*d.* to 2*s.* 9*d.*, 4*s.* 6*d.* to 11*s.*, &c., is too much, and greatly needs alteration.

We feel sure, if the farthing and halfpenny stamps were introduced for sixpenny and shilling articles, the possibility of unpleasantness with the Inland Revenue authorities would be avoided. Further, we are of opinion that, were the above adopted, the anxiety of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to meet ways and means would be greatly lightened by a large increase in the stamp department of the revenue.

We cordially join in hoping you may bring the matter before the proper authorities.

Yours truly,

September 19.

S. L. & Co.



[A somewhat similar suggestion was made in the early part of 1886, and discussed at considerable length in our pages, but it appeared that chemists were far from unanimous in regard to the proposed change.]

#### Preservation of Cocaine Solutions.

SIR,—I beg to offer a suggestion concerning the preservation of solution of cocaine hydrochlorate, which consists in dissolving the cocaine hydrochlorate in a 1 in 1,000 solution of thymol in distilled water. I made a 4-per-cent. solution about three weeks ago, and, so far as I can ascertain, there is no tendency to decomposition, and the solution remains perfectly bright up to the present date. It has been suggested that thymol might be objectionable for subcutaneous injection, on account of its irritating properties, but from the small quantity present in the solution, I am inclined to think that the irritation (if any) would be very slight. I have not yet, however, had an opportunity of ascertaining anything definite on this point; but I will be glad to have your opinion or that of your readers on the subject.

I am, yours faithfully,

Cheetham Hill, Manchester.

JAS. C. KIDD.

#### The Therapeutical Society.

SIR,—As the original promoter of the "Therapeutical Society of Great Britain," I was very much pleased with the article in your issue of September 10. Your suggestion was among my original proposals, but it is not likely to be carried into effect. Already, before a general meeting of members has been held, the society has gravitated into an ordinary exclusive medical society; its members will be elected by ballot, and they will pay an extra subscription in order to obtain a copy of its journal. The object of its promoters was to establish a free platform for the discussion of all therapeutic problems, and it was considered necessary to the investigations it would be called upon to pursue to have the aid of skilled pharmacists. Neither of these proposals is favoured by the provisional council of the society, and it is not considered worth while to make this the subject of discussion or alteration. It may be within the power of the Therapeutical Society to do some good among those who are wedded to old ideas, and perhaps lead on to better things; and on these grounds I think it would be a pity to take any action which might interfere with its development. Its promoters consider that it is their proper course to form a new society on the original lines, and to take such steps as will effectually prevent it from falling into the same groove as their first project has done. I enclose you a copy of the original prospectus of the Therapeutical Society, which will enable you to judge of its original aims and intentions.

Yours respectfully,

PERCY WILDE, M.D.

23 Circus, Bath, September 23.

#### Love Powders.

SIR,—If your correspondent is again asked for "love powder" he may, by perfuming pulv. amyli with jasmin instead of with patchouli, produce a very good imitation of an old love philtre, and one more innocent than that employed by the naughty girl in Prior. The very name of the jasmin "portends success in love," for it tells us that despair is foolish, whilst the flower itself has from time immemorial been regarded as a bringer of luck and an exciter of love. The history of its introduction into Europe, as related by Leudon, fully bears out this character. Probably, however, when "love powder" is asked for either pulv. cantlar. or powdered mandrake root is meant. I recently received an order for the latter, and ascertained that it was wanted for the purpose of arousing the amatory passion of a sow. My customer was amazed that I could not supply it. He had got it "offens and offends" in a neighbouring town.

May I add that the sentence referring to the Babylonians in my letter of September 10 should have read "they have no professed physicians," &c.

I am, &c.,

Epworth, September 24.

C. C. BELL.

#### Graduated Bottles.

SIR,—From a practical point of view I consider that graduated bottles (when the divisions are not unreasonably close) ensure greater accuracy than the use of medicine glasses; thus, using an 8-oz. tablespoon graduated bottle the patient would have the greater chance of the contents being divided into sixteen doses than by a correct measure, as an unaccustomed hand would use it. The first and last doses are the only ones subject to any great variation; the first is entirely under the dispenser's control, and should always be measured, and if the last dose be seriously wrong, it may be detected at a glance, and the bottle put aside for less important use. Mixtures over 2 oz. for teaspoon doses, and those over 8 oz. for tablespoon doses should be divided by a graduated measure, but I should be astonished if my customer measured twenty-three tablespoons from a 12-oz. bottle, and had exactly  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. left. We should also bear in mind that, whilst we are making our mixtures, like volumetric solutions, and explaining to our customer that a teaspoonful is 60 minims, the prescriber may already have made allowance for a big spoon. A doctor handed me a prescription the other day for an ounce mixture with the remark, "I have only written for six doses. I suppose that is all they will make out of an ounce."

Yours very truly,

35 Clifton Road, Maida Vale.

R. H. PARKER.

#### Cinder Tea.

SIR,—In the Midland Counties this is taken for eruptions and pimples on the skin. I imagine that some sulphuretted compound is formed, and is the active principle.

Yours truly,

HEDER.

*Hemacopath* (48/165), replying to "F. B. T.," suggests that the efficacy of the preparation in infantile gripes is probably due to the infinitesimal amount of carbon left in the water. It is a well-known fact amongst homoeopaths that vegetable carbon in very small doses relieves flatulence by its dynamic action.

#### Sponges and Sand.

SIR,—A most amusing article appeared in the *Globe* a few days ago. In it the writer humorously describes the agonies he suffered from the sand that issued from his new sponge from the moment he first used it up to the last. As, however, all his tortures were unnecessarily inflicted, and were due to the fact of his being entirely ignorant of the condition proper to the sponge, the *Globe* published a letter from us correcting his errors. The subject being of interest to your readers, we send you the substance of our letter.

The *Globe* essayist speaks of "that ultimate test of a genuine child of the ocean, sandiness." Now, sand is not natural to the sponge; in fact, it could not live were its delicate pores clogged up with sand. The sponge in its native element is a living gelatinous mass, the fibrous skeleton of which is covered with a living substance endowed with digestive and reproductive properties. Moreover, the sponge grows on a rocky bed. How, therefore, does sand become associated with it? This is a question easily answered. It was the custom many years ago at the fisheries to put sand into the sponges, after bleaching them and depriving them of their organic animal impurities. They were then packed in cases and sent to the English market, where they were sold principally by weight, sand, of course, included. This was a senseless custom, for what, indeed, was the use of putting sand into a sponge when it is so desirable to keep it free from sand? It will probably be a relief to many who, like the *Globe* essayist, cling to the old "sandiness" delusion to know that they can have clean sandless sponges for the asking, and at generally very much lower prices than those he mentioned. The sponges which our firm imports are collected personally by us from the various islands in the fishing localities of Greece and Turkey, and packed in their virgin condition into bales, without sand or any foreign substance, at our foreign establishment at Aegina, Greece, and our two other depôts. We have still, it is true, to cater for the prejudices of a few dealers who yet



cherish the "genuine sandiness" superstition, by importing a small quantity of sanded sponge. But this is getting less every year, while the consumption of sandless sponges is increasing enormously.

We would certainly advise that new sponges be rinsed in water before using them the first time, as there are generally minute fragments of shell or rock adhering to the root. But the sand so much complained of can always be avoided by purchasers asking for the sandless sponges, which are kept in stock by nearly all respectable druggists who exhibit sponges in their shops.

We are, sir, yours faithfully,  
SEPTEMBER 28. CRESSWELL BROTHERS.

### The Future of Pharmacy.

[Temporary insanity was produced by an attempt to understand the paper read by Professor Dr. Hirudo at the British Pilular Conference. The ex-maniac thinks that the severest punishment that could be inflicted on him (the ex-maniac) would be to see his ravings in print.]

Is that a satire that I see before me,  
Writ by a doctor's hand? Come, let me read thee;  
I have thee sure, and yet I cannot make  
Thy meaning out. Art thou the rank raving  
Of a god-like mind, or the miscarriage  
Of a materia-medicated brain?  
'Twere hard to say: too strange to understand  
The picture which is drawn.

This the picture:—A chemist, grim and wan,  
Loyal as Helican; a Cerimon  
In reverence; in philanthropic aim  
Putting Rossa in shade, Shaftesbury to shame.  
Abhorring rank, detesting filthy gain,  
He suffers but to cure all others' pain.  
Specialists wax wealthy; the secret form-  
Man rolls in guineas, HE seeks no reform.  
Enough for him that acon. nap. one mil-  
Lionth grain can cure congestion, croup, and chill.  
Il est sati that the grasse grenouille  
To verat., phyto., merc., and bryony  
Yields up its rheums; and in one angle kicks  
When treated for the spasm in cervix.

His hall, a perfect palace of delight,  
Chastened and lofty; where a thousand lights  
Flash through the fountains of the oil of tar,  
And learned men in solemn converse are.  
There every air is heavy with the sighs  
Of souls unshriven; and the monster lies  
Those learned men indulge in would avail  
To make an editor with envy pale.  
But hush! . . . here comes the pharmacist; oh, look!  
Look how he ponders o'er that ponder[ous] book:  
Mark the deep lines of care, the frenzied look,  
The . . . sudden slamming of that mystic book.

The scene is changed:—See yonder massive hall,  
With graceful mullions and with turrets tall—  
That is a madhouse. See that "one-hoss shay"  
(Horse from the "knacker's"), tumbling to decay—  
That is a hearse, sir. See that strange-shaped box—  
But stop! the sight's too much—my soul it shocks.  
"God save us from our friends!" we well may cry,  
When future pharmacists are thus to die.

### EPITAPH.

Born a man, died a chemist.

### MORAL.

There isn't any.

W. G. B. (162/3.)

### LEGAL QUERIES.

63/164. *C. E. O.*—The exemption from jury service does not extend to all registered chemists; only to pharmaceutical chemists.

55/164. *Nomen.*—We cannot give legal advice on subjects outside the range of trade matters.

73/163. *X. E. S.*—You can sell without a licence any petroleum except such as gives off inflammable vapour when tested in accordance with the Petroleum Act instructions at a temperature under 73° Fahr.

49/166. *A Subscriber* writes:—"If a gentleman comes into a chemist's shop, asks for some paper, and writes out a proper prescription in Latin, and hands it to you to dispense, and containing acid. hydrocyan. dil., saying he is in a hurry, and then when you ask him if he is a 'medical man,' he hesitates, but says 'No,' is he trying to obtain these articles under false pretences? I would like to know this very particularly, as I have grave suspicions about the case.

"Also, when you receive a proper prescription, written in Latin, &c., and signed with some initials, how can you tell whether it is a genuine one (that is, one written by a medical man) or not? Could anyone concoct a prescription containing poisons, and thereby obtain them, although not qualified to do so?"

[If the gentleman in the first case said he was not a medical man, what was the false pretence? There is no law prohibiting unqualified persons writing out their orders in Latin, nor can they be punished for putting such orders in the usual form of a prescription. As to the second question, we do not see how you can tell from its appearance whether a Latin prescription has been written by a qualified medical man or not, nor do we see why, in most cases, you need trouble yourself about the matter. If, however, the medicine ordered is a dangerous one, you will be very unwise to dispense it without much better authority than a prescription written in Latin and signed by unknown initials.—ED. C. & D.]

166/66. *Pallas* (Port Elizabeth).—The Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain does not have the power to accept the certificate of any examination in lieu of its own Minor examination. You would have to pass both the Preliminary and Minor examinations before you could be registered. If you have for three years been engaged in the dispensing and translation of medical prescriptions, you could enter for the examinations at once, allowing a three months' interval between them.

166/31. *Nemo.*—We do not think that the wrapper is a colourable imitation of Eno's, but Eno might take a different view of the matter.

13/3. *Chocolate.*—You can ascertain whether the title "Anti-fat" is registered or not by application at the Trade-marks Office, Southampton Buildings, Holborn. Fee, 1s.

### MISCELLANEOUS INQUIRIES.

#### Dispensing Labels.

*W. J. H.* (157/46) says the "last competition, although rather disappointing in results, has proved exceedingly interesting, and must do good." He thinks "everyone will agree with our award of the first prize for penmanship and word arrangement, although the label itself is not free from objection. For instance, it would go all round a 4-oz. bottle, and the corners, although looking well on, take a long time to trim, and are thus liable to be left when pushed for time. Moreover, whatever the patient or doctor may like, the chemist's name, &c., should be most prominent in these times of keen competition."

*Diars Cordial.*—A correspondent, referring to an answer published on September 10, reminds us of an answer on the same subject published in August, 1885, in which it was explained that diascordium was an electuary in all the Pharmacopoeias a century ago, and took its name from the small proportion (1 in 27½) of the leaves of *Teucrium scordium* which it contained. It was a mild opiate. We stated then that it was often confused with diacodium or syrup of poppies.



164/73. *Bismuth*.—We traced the formation of fungus in *Liquor Bismuthi et Ammonii Citratis* to the presence of nitrate in the bismuth citrate. We have a specimen of the liquor made from such a sample with an excess of ammonia and containing added citrate of ammonium, which has not become fungoid. Other specimens without excess of ammonia contain the fungus to a greater or less extent. If you add a distinct excess of ammonia and 16 grains of citrate of ammonium to each ounce of the liquor, you will not be troubled with the fungus. It is almost impossible to wash the citrate free from nitrate. See reviews on page 751 of last volume.

163/73. *Xes*.—*Spirit-varnish*.—Shellac, 2 lbs.; sandarach,  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.; gum thus, 6 oz.; spirit, 1 gallon. Dissolve and strain.

165/26. *W*.—It is evident that the children who are troubled with pediculi require a tonic as well as a parasitic application. Parrish's syrup should be given, scrupulous cleanliness enforced, and either the infusion or ointment of stavesacre applied. The hair should be cut short.

164/57. *H. H*.—The essential thing in *Indian Ink* is a thoroughly impalpable lampblack. The Chinese make this from camphor oil. You may reduce the lampblack of commerce to a fine powder by the process of elutriation. Grind a few ounces with as much water as will make a thin paste, throw into a quart of water, allow the larger particles to subside, decant the rest, and allow to settle. Continue this process until you get enough fine powder to suit your purpose, dry it, and make into a paste with mucilage of quince seed or mucilage of Irish moss.

164/61. *W. H. G*.—We do not have a working formula for *Liquor Euonymi et Pepsin Co*. Preparations of this character are rendered soluble by treating a tincture of euonymin (such as was given by a correspondent last week) with an alkali (magnes. carb. levis, for example), and adding the solution so made to an almost neutral solution of pepsin.

166/55. *Weeds*.—Bay salt is a good application for weeds on garden paths. Perhaps a solution of this disguised with carbolic acid is what you want.

165/62. *Oleum*.—*Olive Oil Tests*.—This oil has a specific gravity of 0.913 to 0.918. With solution of nitrate of mercury (6 drachms of mercury dissolved in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  drachms by weight of nitric acid, sp. gr. 1.35) added in the proportion of 1 part to 12 of the oil, a solid, clear yellow mass is obtained in an hour, which is perfectly hard in twenty-four hours. If seed oils are present they not only alter the colour but delay solidification. If sesame oil is present, 10 c.c. of the oil shaken with 5 c.c. of hydrochloric acid, containing 10 centigrammes of sugar, will give a rose colour. These tests are generally sufficient, but for fuller information see the last volume, page 792.

164/9. *Cardiff*.—To remove transparencies from windows, sponge them with a mixture of the liquor potassæ and methylated spirit equal parts, and remove when soft.

165/45. *W. H. Madden*.—We have not examined the sauce which you mention.

165/68. *Reden*.—We have given the best formulæ for writing inks which have been published, but it is possible that some experience in working them may suggest improvements. All the good inks in the market are the result of long and careful experiments by the manufacturers, who have started with such formulæ as we have given. You should follow their example. *Foot-rot Ointment*.—Burnt alum,  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz.; corrosive sublimate, 10 grains; carbolic acid, 2 drachms; precipitated chalk, 2 oz.; vaseline, 6 oz. Mix.

The labels for materia medica specimens may be obtained from Messrs. Barber & Co., Liverpool, makers of crimson marking-ink. See advertisement in this journal.

11/40. *Stingo*.—*Silvering Amalgam* (for Metal).—Silver (in grain), 1 oz.; mercury, 8 oz. Put together in an iron dish and accelerate combination by a gentle heat and brisk stirring.

165/50. *North Jeme*.—*Essences of Lemon, Cloves, Cinnamon, and Caraway*.—The first is generally made by dissolving 1 oz. of the oil in 7 oz. of absolute alcohol. The others are 1 in 20 preparations, made with rectified spirit, but you may make them of any strength—for example, the same as the lemon.

165/66. *Inquirer* (Cockstown).—*To Cure Rabbit-skins*.—Stretch the skin before it dries upon a board and fasten with tacks. Remove superfluous membrane by rubbing with a piece of pumice aided with soap and water. Then apply a strong solution of alum, and expose to the air until dry. Repeat the application of alum, and finish by applying milk of lime, dry, and brush off the powder.

10/26. *H. Knott*.—"Ann. Quinten Ointment," a corruption of quintum (*vulgus* for unguentum), or simple cerate.

#### An Asthma Reliever.

165/48. *Gep* recommends "Bon Accord" to try the following. Several of Gep's customers who have tried it find it very successful:—

Acid. carbolic.	..	..	..	..	3v.
Sp. vin. rect.	..	..	..	..	3xv.
Sol. amm. fort.	..	..	..	..	3v.
Aquæ destil.	..	..	..	..	3x.

Keep in dark stoppered bottle. When a catarrh is commencing a few drops are sprinkled on three or four folds of blotting-paper and inhaled by the patient, keeping his eyes shut. To be used every two hours.

162/30. *H. C*.—We shall have an article on the subject. "Duplex" (166/39) asks if "H. C." can give more information about the spice trade.

166/38. *G. C. Druce*.—*Marking Ink*, made carefully according to the formula given in our issue of May 7, p. 572, does not rot the linen. See article on the subject in our Diary for 1884.

166/54. *Copper*.—Precipitated copper is made from solution of sulphate of copper by adding scrap iron to it.

166/53. *Tinctura*.—Address the Director-General, Medical Department of the Navy, Whitehall, W., for further information regarding naval dispenserships.

166/35. *Perplexed*.—To make soluble essence of lemon by the process mentioned by "Fidem," use the same proportions of chloride and phosphate. Dissolve 10 oz. of oil of lemon in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  pints of rectified spirit, and proceed as directed last week, omitting, of course, the 3 pints of water. For emulsifying tar oil, see note on page 635 of last volume. Tincture of quillaia (made with methylated spirit) is also a suitable emulsifier. A solution of tar in strong solution of caustic soda is perfectly miscible with water.

#### Tincture of Euonymin "Green,"

as used by some West-end houses, is made as follows:—

Tinct. euonymin conc. (Keith's)	..	..	4
Rectified spirit	..	..	1
Misce. Equal 1 grain in 15 minims.			

RUSTICUS. (164/23)



## Books.

164/66. *Aconitum*.—What you require is "Hoblyn's Dictionary" (G. Bell & Son, 10s. 6d.).

167/5. *F. Williams*.—The following are useful popular works on medical treatment:—Napheys's "Domestic Medicine" (Baillière, 7s. 6d.); "The Book of Health" (Cassell, 2ls.); Walsh's "Domestic Medicine" (Warne, 7s. 6d.); Haydn's "Domestic Medicine" (Ward, Lock & Co., 7s. 6d.); Begbie's "Medical Information" (Nelson, 2s. 6d.). All treat of children's complaints; but if you wish a special book, get "The Mother's Manual of Children's Diseases" (Longmans, 2s. 6d.).

162/9. *Meta*.—The Hair Invigorator appears to be a very simple one. Try the following formula:—

Acetic acid .. .. .	2 oz.
Oil of cloves .. .. .	10 drops
" citronella .. .. .	4 "
Glycerine .. .. .	2 oz.
Rectified spirit .. .. .	2 "
Water to .. .. .	1 pint

Dissolve the oils in the spirit, and add to the water and glycerine previously mixed with  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. of phosphate of lime, shake occasionally for two hours, then filter and add the acetic acid.

161/4. *J. W.*—Paris green is arsenite of copper.

159/72. *Distemper*.—Washable Distemper.—For each hundredweight of pipeclay use 2 lbs. of soft-soap and 2 pints of boiled oil, or a strong solution of borax may be used instead of the oil.

166/36. *W. W.*—The best way to carbolise the wheat-dressing would be by mixing some carbofic powder with it. Carbofic acid alone would be apt to turn the alum and sulphate of copper into a paste.

167/12. *J. T. Thompson*.—See last week's issue, page 388.

167/16. *Campos*.—The addition of a little alkali darkens composition essence, but purified caramel is the colour used.

164/22. *J. G.*—*Daphne mezereum*.

166/55. *Novum*. Hair-oil Perfumes.—(1) Oil of bergamot, 3j.; oil of lemon, 5j.; oil of cassia,  $\text{m xv}$ .; oil of verbena,  $\text{m x}$ .; oil of neroli,  $\text{m v}$ . Mix. (Cheap) Oil of citronella, 3j.; oils of verbena, 3j.; oil of origanum and bergamot, of each 5j.; oil of cassia,  $\text{m x}$ .; oil of cloves,  $\text{m v}$ . Mix.

166/69. *Hæmo*.—(1) The Homœopathic Tinctures for external application are the mother tinctures—that is, they are 1 part of the dry plant in 10. They are frequently further diluted to 1 in 100 with spirit of soap to form liniments. (2) Homœopathic chemists obtain fresh plants from the growers. Of course all tinctures are not made in this country—some are made in America, or anywhere that the plants grow. Homœopaths cultivate some of the plants that they require.

167/30. *M. Curtis*.—Everybody seems to have the same experience as yourself with **Black Graph Inks**—they are all unsatisfactory.

**Black Composition for Gun-sights**—In reply to 158/46, who asked for this on September 17, Messrs. Grimble & Kent, of Boston, say, "we find drop black, rubbed down with a little methylated spirit, answer very well."

167/26. *J. M.* (Dublin).—We presume that it is **Syrup of**

**Lactophosphate of Lime** that you wish to make. The following is the U.S.P. method:—

Phosphate of lime .. .. .	1 oz.
Syrupy lactic acid .. .. .	$9\frac{1}{2}$ fl. dr.
Orange-flower water .. .. .	3 fl. oz.
Sugar .. .. .	28 oz.
Hydrochloric acid, solution of ammonia, and water, of each a sufficiency.	

Purify the phosphate by dissolving in 13 oz. of water and hydrochloric acid q.s., precipitate with solution of ammonia, collect the precipitate wash thoroughly, and dissolve in the lactic acid, add the orange-flower water and enough water to make 14 fl. oz., filter, and wash the filter with water to 17 oz., dissolve the sugar in the filtrate without heat, and strain.

167/7. *Enquirer*.—Cough Mixture (without Opium).—

Tincture capsici .. .. .	3ij.
Aceti ipecacuanhæ .. .. .	3iv.
Spirit. chloroformi [.. .. .	3vj.
Syr. pruni virgin. .. .. .	3j.
Syr. tolutani .. .. .	j.
Liq. cocci .. .. .	q.s.
Aque anisi ad .. .. .	3vj.

M.

*Dose*: A dessertspoonful three times during the day and a tablespoonful at night.

[May also be made as a syrup, omitting the water and adding tolu syrup to 4 oz. *Dose*: A teaspoonful.]

**Indigestion Mixture (for Stock)**.—A general mixture cannot be specific in character, because "indigestion" has not always the same origin. A good stomachic is what is wanted, and you will find the following satisfactory:—

Gentian .. .. .	1 oz.
Orange peel .. .. .	$\frac{3}{4}$ "
Coriander fruit .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
Cardamoms .. .. .	$\frac{1}{2}$ "
Cochineal .. .. .	1 dr.
Raisins .. .. .	2 oz.
Rectified spirit .. .. .	2 "
Spt. sal volatile .. .. .	2 "
Water to .. .. .	1 pint

Macerate for a week, filter, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. spirit of chloroform and water to make 1 pint.

**Russian Physician's Cure for Toothache** (page 402).—3ij. of a 20-per-cent. solution of permanganate of potash every half-hour, if it did not cure the toothache would be very likely to divert attention from it. PH. CHEM.

## Information Wanted.

[Replies to the following requests are solicited by correspondents of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST.]

7/166. A German subscriber writes:—"There are frequent inquiries at the shops here for 'Turlington,' which I presume is an English or American patent medicine. Could you give a prescription for this article.

45/166. Maker of Oriental soap.

29/166. English agent for Ruse & Wickmann's Cocoa Powder.

28/166. Lane's Catarrh Cure. Maker's address.

Where can I obtain camphor ball moulds? I suppose they will be like bullet-moulds, but of a larger size. HEDER.

161/4. Composition of "London purple," used in Canada for destroying the Colorado beetle.

7/168. Makers of "K" brand bottles.

10/26. Moore's Ointment. What is generally given for this?

THE CHEMISTS' AND DRUGGISTS' DIARY, 1888, is now being prepared. It will be one of the most popular and permanent of the series, and will certainly far exceed the circulation of any preceding issue. Advertisements to appear in this book should be sent in at once.